

Take these words seriously.

RARITIES IN THE LIGHT OF COMMON SENSE

Walter Breen  
Vice President, FCI

Every so often it is worthwhile to return to the paramount, perennial questions: How rare is this date? Are there a couple of dozen, a couple of hundred, a couple of thousand, or a couple of million around? Do the price scales in the red book and the gray sheet reflect auction performance, or dealers' wishful thinking, or sheer guesswork?

Constant dealer repetition of "Very Rare," "Extremely Rare" --or even "Excessively Rare"--has generated, on the one hand, a vast collection of erroneous ideas, and on the other hand a cynical skepticism of all similar claims. Even after nearly forty years, Dr. Sheldon's pungent comment still applies: "Numismatics ... has always had its shady fringe of unscrupulous dealers--men who exaggerate condition, rarity, and value when they sell, and understate some or all of these when they buy. These men depend on a large turnover in the collector population, with a resulting continuous supply of suckers. ... Dealers' dreams do sometimes get into print." (Early American Cents, pp. 29, 35.)

The very first thing to keep in mind, therefore, is that between actual rarity and price the relationship is never as clear-cut as economics textbooks would lead you to believe. Part of the reason is in the nomenclature. Strictly speaking, rare means that only a limited number of collectible specimens exist. The definition is unavoidably vague: how many is "a limited number"? This is partly why Sheldon insisted on making his 8-point rarity scale quantitative, from R-1 'common' to R-8 'unique or nearly unique--not over 3' in collectors' hands.' Its automatic limitations: 1) often the actual number extant cannot be known with certainty; 2) dealers using such estimates are under pressure--by their own greed and their consignors'--to exaggerate. Most conspicuously, this occurs when a coin was listed long ago as R-7 ('4 to 12 known') but continues to be so listed after a dozen more have turned up.

This is partly why the so-called law of supply and demand does not work in the coin market. Nor can any attempt to modify its mathematical formulation make it work. Incompleteness and varying delays in diffusion of essential updated information are only part of the reason; there are many ad hoc exceptions in each denomination. Price levels on these vary more with publicity than with actual numbers known. Information that could affect price levels is also often manipulated by those in a position to determine the timing of publicity. The more often you are told that this or that date is rare, the more likely you are to believe it.

even when new specimens are continuing to appear. The more the market for a particular series is manipulated, the more likely that the publicity will stimulate demand.

The way this usually works: a few dealers hoard individual issues or series, publish offers to buy while temporarily offering none for sale, make certain that the buy offers get into the gray sheet; then, after enough others have begun imitating them, especially if the new prices have affected the red book, they unload. A few months later the process repeats with a different series. Your only recourse in this game is to learn the truth about each series. Then you can decide whether to buy a particular series now, or later, or not at all.

In the following sections, I propose to go through the entire series of federal coinages (half cents to double eagles and commemoratives), checking for alleged rarity. In the process, a few balloons are inevitably going to be punctured, and some other issues will show up as rarer than formerly believed. Hitherto unpublished data are from my Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins (Doubleday, in press). As that book deals entirely with major varieties (those in which at least one letter punch, numeral punch, larger design element, or layout, differs from other coins of the same type), rather than minor (positional) varieties, I shall follow the same procedure here.

HALF CENTS

### UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

The first issues of these conformed exactly to the specifications of the Mint Act of April 1792, as did their silver counterparts. None bore any mark of denomination before 1807. These, like most of the earliest Mint issues, have their classical counterpart as far as design is concerned. The verification for this has been recently found in an unexpected quarter. The reverse of the eagle and half-eagle of 1795 shows a naturalistic eagle standing on a palm branch and holding a wreath of laurel in his beak; the original of this design is a Roman (First Century B.C., matching the famous Gemma Augustea) onyx cameo, No. 166 in the Vienna Collections, No. 4 in Eichler-Kris's catalogue of the antique cameos in the Kunsthistorisches Museum at Vienna. This shows the eagle standing to right, but in attributes and workmanship bears a remarkable resemblance to the 1795 die. Later gold dies are less imaginative, simply following the model of the silver coins almost exactly.

Coinage was very limited in the early years for all denominations except

Walter Breen's annotated The Standard Catalogue of United States Coins  
From 1616 to Present day {1957}.

See entire page in Bibliography below.

# **U.S. Gold Ten Dollar or Eagle 1795-1804.**

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Volume 1.

Second Edition.

Included here: 57,683,485 pieces struck 1795-1933.

In 3 volumes 1795-1804, 1838-1907, 1907-33.

Over 63 varieties & die states described 1795-1804. 1795-1933: 502.

Many pedigrees, Pattern & Trial pieces listed.

Assembled from Walter Breen's archives.

WB's observations vetted. Compiled from his records, accompanied with his source material shown, for historical purposes only.



## Introduction 1795-1933

UNITED STATES EAGLES 1795-1933

by Walter Breen

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### INTRODUCTION

Like the ~~xxx~~ quarter eagles, the eagles represent a sort of ugly duckling or Cinderella denomination among United States coinages. Mintages ~~were~~ <sup>almost</sup> limited in comparison with those of half eagles in all years prior to the "common gold" period at Philadelphia, and between 1805 and 1837 inclusive, a period of large half-eagle coinage, none at all were struck. Counting all five mints which struck eagles, and all seven which struck half-eagles, there were just under 57,700,000 eagles coined as compared with just under 79,000,000 half-eagles. As the eagle was recognized from the beginning of legislative discussion leading to the Mint Act of 1792 to be the monetary gold unit of the nation, this peculiarity requires explanation. The only one at hand is an accident of foreign exchange. The half eagle was very near in international <sup>bullion</sup> value to a considerable number of foreign gold coins: Portuguese 4000 Reis and 2 Escudos, French louis d'or and 24 Livres, English guineas and sovereigns, all of these existing in numerous types. The eagle, for some reason, came near in value only to French double louis and to the British double guineas (existing only in limited mintages) and <sup>the</sup> double sovereign of 1825. As all these foreign gold coins were legal tenders in the United States by acts of 1793 and 1816, one may conjecture that the slightly lower-value foreign coins circulated preferentially to United States gold, that bankers seldom ordered eagles <sup>from the mint</sup> for that very reason, and that when after 1800 the shift in the gold/silver ratio made exportation of gold as bullion profitable, eagles were preferentially shipped out for melting.

With limited mintages and extensive meltings, it is unsurprising that the number of varieties in the earlier years is small. A problem still

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~



not altogether understood nor even conjecturally solved is that of the near disappearance of eagles even of relatively large mintages between 1840 and 1879. All are rarer than one would expect from the mintages, particularly rarer than half eagles of equal mintages, that is, the Characteristic Ratio of survival (number extant/number minted) is smaller than for half eagles. Prior to 1880 ~~that~~ there are only 6 or 7 dates likely to be offered more than three or four times per year in auctions or fixed-price sales, or seen more often than that in dealers' bourse tables at conventions: 1799, 1801 second variety, 1847, 1847 O, 1849 and perhaps 1879 and 1879 S. This is despite the existence of some 11 other dates and mintmarks with mintages in excess of 100,000.

It is therefore anticipated that a few more varieties will be discovered after the present publication, but that they will be very few indeed and very minor, and probably for the most part very rare. Collector interest in eagles has been limited owing to the difficulty of obtaining excellent specimens of most dates prior to 1880; for this reason, almost no die variety information has been available save for desultory mentions in a few catalogues and for the Adams publication in the 1934 Coin Collector's Journal. One variety described by Adams has never been seen and is listed only because Waldo Newcomer owned a specimen; two other varieties unknown to him are ~~g~~for the first time given adequate publicity. Collectors owning varieties unmentioned herein are urged to contact me so that subsequent booklet publication will be more nearly complete.

References consistently used herein include: A = ~~Adams~~ Edgar H. Adams's serial in the Coin Collector's Journal above mentioned; C = John H. Clapp notebooks, now in possession of Louis Eliasberg, ~~to~~ whom grateful acknowledgment is here made for their use; N = Waldo Newcomer's inventory; and the New Netherlands 49th, 55th, and some few other catalogues.

Designs require little comment, following those of the half eagles

consistently save for the years 1838-39, when the new types appeared in the eagles before they were extended to the smaller denominations.

There were ~~two~~ emergency coinages following the yellow fever epidemics of 1796, ~~and~~ 1797, <sup>1801 and 1803.</sup> As the numbers of eagle ~~and~~ dies were very limited and the coins struck ~~from~~ them relatively few, apparently these emergency coinages cannot be distinguished from the normal ones. It would appear that the post-epidemic mintage in 1796 consisted of normal 1796 coins, ~~that~~ and that the similar mintage of January 1798 consisted of 1797's with heraldic eagle; those of late 1801 and November 1804 <sup>3</sup> seem to be normal coins of those dates. indistinguishable from any others.

Continuing unpopularity of eagles even in later years might be attributable to their as it were falling between two stools (like \$2 bills to the present day): too large for the small transactions conveniently handled with half eagles, they were also too small for convenient transportation or storage of very large sums after the discovery of gold in California occasioned mintage of double eagles and bank ingots. One thousand eagles take up a great deal more room than five hundred doubles or than two hundred Humbert ingots or a smaller number of the high-denomination bank ingots.

We proceed now to variety descriptions.

Misc. WB paper: Great rarities of this group are the two varieties dated 1798/7. These two deliveries of [900] & [842], Feb. 17 & 28th 1798, respectively, are believed to comprise, respectively, with stars 9+4 Breen 1-A, & with stars 7+6 Breen 1-A. Coinage of eagles was interrupted thereafter until May 14, 1799. Breakage of both obverse dies may have been the reason.

The co(i)n industry can be explained herein. This Doctrin-a -ae can never be complete due to the vast mintages. In addition, entropy in a closed system and in concert with the Boltzman equation. Damage to Walter Breen's notes (floods 1 & 2) fragmented useable manuscripts; theft; in addition WB used water-based colored inks; colored for source filing. WB wrote only about what he had in-hand, he trusted no other opinion. Sources are named in detail.

Misc. note: Ballpark survival rates: \$10 1795 > 2%, 1796-1804 varies 0.5-2% (1798's saved).



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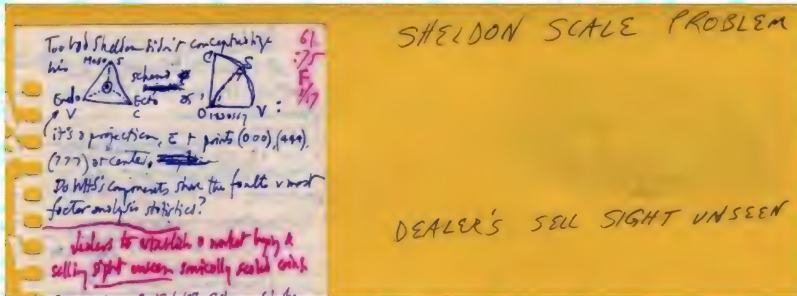
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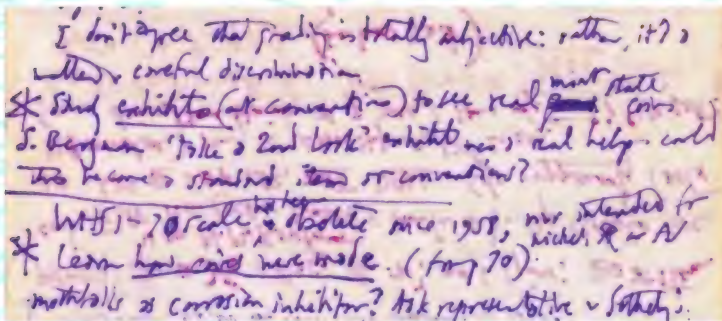


## Grading Standards.



Sheldon scale does not work.

Dealers sell sight unseen.



I don't agree grading is totally subjective:[...]NB 17:71

69:63 SAT 8/2

How to keep the i in COIN GAME? 3) learn more than your dealer; 4) watch them; 5) use your judgment. Rter. Market position is not an inherently subject to initial thinking & self-serving. It is in better than its source. It is even at best - subject to predators' prides. 69:62.

- \* to keep it from becoming, but not a COIN GAME.
- Which is riskier: diversification or specializing?
- Are we ready to risk friendships & credibility for quick bucks?
- No one's not a professional for having a corner. No one's not better than a competitor. No one's not a dealer.
- Investment, a 3rd level thinking. It's not a 2nd level thinking. What is industry self-regulation? 2. (what is a 2nd level thinking in credit rating (congruence, misrepresentation). Its real contradiction in game theory.

COIN GAME

CERTIFICATE: SUBSTITUTE CREDIBILITY

INDUSTRY SELF REGULATION

EDITOR: FOX GUARDING THE HEN HOUSE. ANA

69:65 SAT 8/2

At ANA: 1) update counterfeit detection series; 2) order a MUG microfilm set to reader. (I have I, II) Vol 78 script out

69:68 SUN 8/3

Professionalism (as against expertise) is definable in about any occupation, in terms of standards & performance output recognized throughout the industry. Ex-posters have had their books published, their records on the dc, but some in other they need professional standards on their path. \* Burghart occurs in (Burghart's) letter Robert Scott, Engr. by Murt 178-1823; \* WBS 963 = 7 letter principle Murt & Murt NOJN 1:00-00. ) ARTIST-91-bureaucrat signing

PROFESSIONALISM

RBT SCOT

Keep the i in 'co\_n' game. See more below.  
Certificate: substitute credibility.

Fox guarding the henhouse.

Professionalism.



# Predictors paradox.

69:62 SAT 8/2

Isolating prices in action!!  
Predictors paradox: examples incl 1984 & 1985. In  
unimpressive, repulsive to date, weak history of VR & worth of X  
stimulates only a series to hunt for others, decreasingly increasing I  
# of decreasing & # of demand, & rapidly unimproving to # of value  
many & inflation credibility to predictors more detailed to  
conclusion to more precise & positive, & more sensitive to result  
to these effects (perturbations).

Price high something you're promoting, & increase demand, slightly  
& decrease & something you're promoting, look at what happened to the  
market in first period of after & during the period of things  
fundamentally high prices. When a year after EAL (1988), many more  
are already called & BVs too high. By 1989 we were all over the  
same BVs more too high others (e.g. 1988) & really nothing didn't  
look much like that. @ 1989

For all these reasons, distrust all numis. market prices: many are  
self-serving. I.e. keep you but not better really for action. What is  
it? It will be out of some of these.

Collymore = manipulated chaos.  
I'm well aware that in ENCY I'm asking for much respect, &  
I'm sure of it. I'm sure of it. I'm sure of it. I'm sure of it.

theory software?! "Mindstorm" (Electronic Arts) - where  
available?

Must be able to keep the "I" in "I" game. I'm sure of it.  
I'm sure of it. I'm sure of it. I'm sure of it. I'm sure of it.

PREDICTORS PARADOX

SHELDON SCAR DOES NOT WORK

DISTRUST ALL NUMIS MARKET

KEEP THE 'I' IN  
COIN GAME

## Grading Standards.

NB 65:56 I've cat'd coins for > 30 years. T # grade system orig. based on 1794 c[ent], later generalized, now standardized!

Sheldon's 1-70 scale was designed for U.S. large size copper cents, in-which it was imperfect. It was never designed for nickel, silver or gold. In Early American Cents 1793-1814 {1949} he does not describe MS-65; see pages 28-42, 42-49. Few details to this very flawed system are employable.

Grade range, Good to Uncirculated; rarely collected in low grades.

**Fine:** Major contours of cap, hair, & drapery intact; leaves in palm branch & wreath can be counted & show partial internal detail.

**Very Fine:** Most folds in drapery clear& cap; partial detail on hair on cap, below ear, & behind head; all wig feathers separated except at tips, partial detail on leg, breast, & neck feathers.

**Extremely Fine:** Few isolated rubbed spots only; partial mint luster.

**Uncirculated:** *No* trace of wear.

**Note:** Many specimens show adjustment marks = file marks inflicted on planchets before striking to reduce weight to standard. These are not impairments but must be mentioned in grading. Beware specimens showing traces of solder; look on top & bottom edges for discoloration, tool marks, interruption of edge reeding, repairs, or discoloration with local porosity.

See Numerical Grading in Glossary.

Misc. ms. by WB concerning minting process and errors: "[...]Eagles, 1795-1804. Borders on 1795 and 1797 coins tend to be wider at left or top than in other areas, but true off-center errors are unknown. [...]"

How coins are made, see gold Bibliography Dies and Coinage WB {1965}.

**Yellow Fever Mint closure dates.**

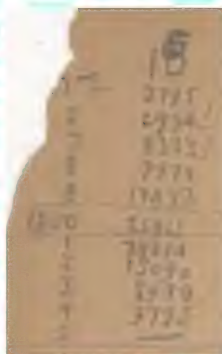
Print closed for 1796-7  
BK yellow fever 97- 9/11-11/9 } 15  
check RWJ 98- 8/20-11/1 } m.ing.  
99- 9/20-11/1

NB 66:144. See Numisma #1



## Below: W.Breen Research in the Archives (1951-2).

Header reads: \_\_\_ statement in 303-96 of Cal/yr coinage 1792-1836. Reported in 1837 R.D.M. w/addition of 1837 Figs. only.



Misc. ms.: E 1795-1804. Borders on 1795 and 1797 coins tend to be wider at left or top than in other areas, but true off-center errors are unknown.

1795



Breen 1-A. [See P b k. m s. presentation pcs.].

1 7 9 5

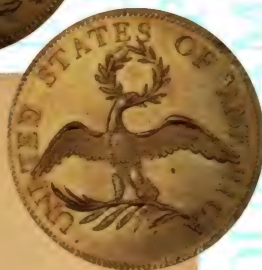
Mintage reported as 2795, in five deliveries between Sept. 22 and Nov. 27, 1795, plus 2788 struck between January and March 1796 from 1795 dies before the admission of Tennessee to the Union necessitated addition of a sixteenth star to subsequent obverses. Correlation of the five known die varieties with the ten deliveries appears untenable, though the variety 1-A which constitutes the majority of known 1795's probably did ~~strike~~ <sup>make up</sup> most of the 2795 actually struck in the calendar year 1795. I reproduce the delivery figures, from Bullion Journal A (in

George Washington said: "It is not my custom to save money to look at."



Breen 1-A, Adams-3, Clapp-4, Newcomer-437.

Breen 4-B, A-1, C-3, N-435.



the National Archives):

Warrant	Date	Eagles
39	Sept. 22	1097
40	Sept. 24	200
45	Oct. 10	387
48	Oct. 24	200
51	Nov. 27	911
52	Jan. 9	1181
54	Jan. 30	134
57	March 1	188
58	March 19	1169
60	March 30	116

Total 2795 + 2788 = 5583. My reason for including the early 1796 deliveries as from 1795 dies is that the 1796 eagles have sixteen stars on obverse, indicating that their obverse die was made after the admission of Tennessee to the Union, June 1, 1796. Now coincidentally (?) the next delivery in 1796 took place on June 2, and there are enough prooflike uncirculated presentation pieces around to give rise to the suspicion that some celebrations were taking place. Tennessee's admission could not have been long anticipated because there was a considerable doubt that it would take place at all, owing to vigorous congressional opposition. There would, then, have been no reason to issue coins with sixteen stars before the admission actually occurred. Evidence from other denominations is lacking because the quarter eagles were issued only at the end of 1796, the half dollars with 16 stars ~~may~~ were coined in 1797 despite the date 1796, and all other coins dated 1796 ~~may~~ bearing <sup>16</sup> stars if they bear any stars at all. (The half eagles of 1795 with heraldic eagle reverses ~~may~~ are known to have been emergency productions of 1797 or later as detailed in my earlier monograph on that series.)

For updated information read entire year, compare with ms. all to follow.



Stewart's History of the First United States Mint repeats the old Evans error of claiming that the first delivery of eagles in 1795 consisted of 400 specimens. This derives obviously from 400 of the initial 1097 being paid out immediately to the Bank of Pennsylvania. There were 3 extra eagles coined and reserved for assay from each of the five deliveries of 1795; they are not counted in the above tabulation. R.W. Julian, in "1795 The First Coinage of Gold," *NSB* April 1964, pp. 1182-86, has given details about die-making, deliveries and payments, unnecessary to repeat here; but to them I can add a fair amount of detail, using stylistic and other criteria not taken into consideration by him.

The variety I call 1-A, the commonest of the date and ~~by~~ apparently the earliest, is the only one ~~xxx~~ issued ~~by~~ under warrants signed by Henry William De Saussure, who in his brief term of office exerted the utmost effort to get gold into production in a reasonably attractive design. The remaining varieties, issued early in 1796, were issued under warrants signed by Elias Boudinot. My reason for the ordering of the five die varieties rests largely on the sound grounds of die break progression, style (especially compared with the half eagle reverses of the year), and the fact that a specimen from ~~xxxxx~~ the earliest delivery, Sept. 22, 1795, was reserved by Adam Eckfeldt for the Mint Cabinet Collection, and is still in the Smithsonian; it is of this variety, if memory serves. I have not seen the piece said to have been presented to General Washington and preserved with his estate at Mount Vernon; if some reader can obtain access to it and verify that it is of the 1-A variety, he will provide clinching evidence. But even if it is not, that will ~~xxx~~ prove only that the General got his coin a little late, ~~xxx~~ or at most that the variety 2-A might have come first and obverse 2 quickly broke. We are fortunate to have many die break evidence whatever in this series.

There were apparently four pairs of dies originally sunk by Scot and Eckfeldt for the 1795 eagles, as compared to ~~xxxx~~ <sup>eleven</sup> ~~ten~~ pairs for the



in 1796. This argument is exactly parallel to that used by Eric Newman in showing that the 1801 proof restrike dollar was not struck until well after the obverse dies had been manufactured; and the presence of rust on several other dies not known to exist in unrusted condition points to a similar state of affairs, though this is not to be taken as evidence of restriking.

Great care ~~was~~ was taken in hubbing the device punches of eagle obverses and ~~reverses~~ reverses into the working dies, apparently the large press first used for coining dollars being used for this purpose. The care taken in repositioning the dies into the press for each subsequent blow from the hub precluded the inadvertent manufacture of any "shift" dies, and the ~~xxxxxx~~ way this was accomplished is for once known. I have seen an obverse die of an 1803 eagle, never used in striking any coins (it remains in rusted and unusable ~~condition~~ condition in a museum, jealously guarded from casual inspection); it ~~has~~ is cylindrical but has a groove near its butt end, obviously intended for positioning purposes, in the press. The groove is narrower and sharper than on later dies of various denominations, some of which have only a small flat area for accommodating a set screw instead—a fairly unreliable though obviously convenient device.

Not from ~~the~~ any putative weakness of hubbing-in of devices, but from the uncertainty, variability and frequent deficiency of force applied to the press in the actual coining process, eagles of the 1795 to 1804 period (especially those of 1795 to 97) come characteristically weak in the centers, pieces with full mint frost often being somewhat indefinite on part of eagle's breast and the hair just ~~behind~~ behind Miss Liberty's ear. Perfectly struck coins are very unusual. The average grade, nevertheless, appears to be just short of Extremely Fine for this denomination, <sup>1795-1804.</sup> reflecting extensive remelting of worn specimens.

B. 1-A. I below L; leaf touches left upright of U. Adams 3; Clapp 4; Newcomer 437. *This is 1795 and 1804, I think. It is a - also 1795 - 1804.*

Obverse 1. Five stars at right all touch each other, the top one also touching Y. Minute extension of additional serif at left of serif

B. 1-A. Enlargement. Pencil 1-A: This is #5 in Adams notebooks. Woodin au 1181. DS Wilson has ef 2 \*-close #1 in same notebook!.



of Y and sometimes a small die chip above upper left corner of Y. In LIBERTY, I below base of L; actually, the L leans a little too much to left. Later, with crack through last three stars; examples with this crack plain are rare.

Reverse A. Thirteen leaves in branch. One leaf touches left upright of U almost at the curve; another passes very close to base of U and beyond, ending about in line with ~~left~~ extreme left tip of left foot of N, but distant from N; another leaf extends to <sup>below</sup> left tip of I.

R-4. This ~~is~~ variety constitutes the ~~majority~~ majority of 1795 eagles surviving and probably the majority struck, though its numbers ~~were~~ doubtless swelled by the twenty or thirty brilliant uncirculated or practically uncirculated specimens remaining in collectors' hands. It is the second variety exhibited by Silas Wadell in ANS 1914 Exposition, and is pictured twice in Adams (above both A-2 and A-3). Emerson Gaylord had two beauties; other mint state ones were in the Eliasberg, Judd, Wolfson, Atwater, WGC collections and many others. I have seen perhaps 60 or 70 in all and am prepared to believe that double that number exist. A specimen in the Smithsonian Institution, from the Mint Cabinet Collection, prooflike and from the earliest die state, was saved for the collection by Adam Eckfeldt and in several of the earliest inventories (now in the Archives) is described as one of the first few struck, Sept. 22, 1795. I have ~~not~~ seen the coin said to have been presented to General Washington but am prepared to believe it the twin brother to this one. One in the Lester Merkin sale, ~~Nov.~~ Nov. 1965, probably originally from the Kreisberg mail bid sale of October 1959, shows a small mint clip; this is a quite extraordinary mint error, the blank probably being overweight to begin with and reduced to within normal limits by the clip.

Breen 1-A.: Stars 10 + 5, 13 leaves in branch. Perhaps 20-30 prooflike Uncs., of which possibly 4 or 5 qualify as presentation striking; these are from B.1-

A = Hilt 1A dies, least rare variety. Earle, Clapp, Eliasberg(:642, Unc. \$39,600.00); Eliasberg(:643, Unc., \$57,200.00).

PS: Strong central hair, borders & breast feathers. Proof surfaces.

9 6

B. 2-A. LI about in line, BE too close, Y free of star, leaf touches upright of U. A-2; C-2; N-436.

Obv. 2. Of the stars at right, only the second and third from bottom (13th and 18th in the usual clockwise notation) touch each other, and even those two on the lightest strikes appear barely free. Eleventh star is fairly close to Y but completely free of that letter. LI are about in line; BE too close at bases, closer than other letters.

Rev. A.

R-6. ~~xxxxxxx~~ In contrast to the 1-A, there do not appear to be any ~~xxx~~ uncirculated ones around, the only one near that grade being ~~the xxxxxxxx~~ lot 2440 in the Brand-Lichtenfels sale. Others seen are VF to EF, about a dozen in all. *Earle 2286, VF, 1951*

B. 3-B. Tenth star touches cap. A-4; C-1; N-438.

Obv. 3. Immediately identified by having tenth star clearly touching cap. Date more closely spaced than <sup>on</sup> other dies of this ~~xxxx~~ year, the 5 only barely touching drapery and on light strikes appearing just free.

Rev. B. Thirteen leaves in branch. Leaf nearest to left upright of U is quite distant; next higher leaf very thin and almost touches left foot of N, while farther from U; longest leaf about in line with left upright of I. Small lump (chip out of die) near border to left of first A in AMERICA.

R-7. Parmelee 698 appears to be the only uncirculated one around and I have long since lost track of it. This is the first Wedell-ANS 1914 variety; ~~xxxx~~ Eliasberg owns one; and a VF specimen was in the 1951 ANA Convention sale. Besides these, I have seen one or two others. *DS Wilson 3, Woodin 1180 of Earle 2287*

B. 4-B. First star much too small and distant from second; 13 leaves. A-1; C-3; N-435.

Obv. 4. Superficially resembles obv. 2, but first and tenth stars (~~xxxxxxx~~ respectively bottom and top  $\frac{1}{2}$  stars at left) much too small, having been too lightly punched into die. First star is quite distant

Breen 2: Pencil manuscript: Earle:2286, VF., Greenberg, EF.. D.S. Wilson 3, VF., Woodin:1180 EF., Earle:2287.

Breen 3-B.: Rarest variety, has star 10 touching cap: Garrett:1655, Unc.,

\$130.000.00. 3-B: Chip near rim btw F A(M) cleaned ef.

10

from second; 2nd through 6th touch or practically touch; denticles often weak above LIBERTY. ~~xx~~Lowest curl incomplete--lapped die.

Rev. B. The lump ~~xx~~ left of first A in AMERICA is always present and larger than on the 3-B variety, now being ~~xx~~ spear-shaped. Borders often weak.

R-6. Newcomer had an uncirculated specimen, but I have lost track of it. This is the third Modell variety in ANS 1914. Davis-Graves 905 was close to unc., Golden I 2636 (Schulman-~~xx~~Kreisberg, March 1962) EF, Gaylord 367 EF or better, Lehrman 1317 close to EF but weakly ~~xx~~struck, and I have seen four or five others, all in the VF to EF range.

B. 4-C. Nine Leaves. A-5; not in C (should have been C-5); N-439. Obv. 4.

Rev. C. Nine leaves in branch, not thirteen. One leaf almost touches U under right upright, another extends to below right of center of N, another to center of base of I or a little beyond. On both specimens seen, there is a die chip or break at end of next to right leaf on branch, and a heavy break through upper half of first F in STATES.

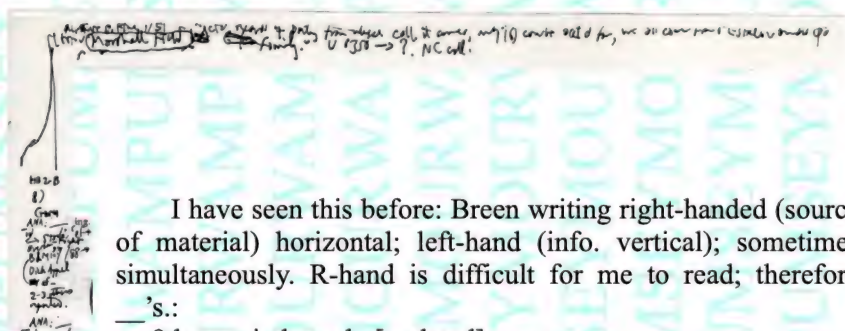
R-8. Only two known. The discovery specimen appears to have been <sup>ex Grandberg</sup> Newcomer's, referred to in Adams as in the Clapp collection but not mentioned in the Clapp notebooks; this was VF and ~~xx~~ cost Newcomer \$100, which was several times the then (1926) going price for 1795's in that grade. It is pictured in Adams. The other one was "Cicero" 61 (New Netherlands 55th Sale), EF but with various planchet defects, weak in centers. Rarity of the variety is difficult to explain; probably the reverse die breaks advanced rapidly, and in general heavy die breaks on gold are not found because the dies were often inspected and quickly condemned when breaks were found. Gold was far more a public relations item for the U.S. government than silver or copper, and care was taken to avoid die breaks or blunders on gold as never on lower denominations.

*Jon Hansen mentions one ex in ~ 1966 Stack Sale - the next of the 3 seen.*

B-4: Pencil annot.: (R-6) ex. D.S. Wilson1? or Woodin:1182? (R-8) ex Grandberg. Last line: Jon Hansen mentions one ex in ~ 1966 Stack Sale-the next of the 3 seen.



Breen 4-C: = Hilt 2B. 9 leaves (much thinner) in branch. Ex-rare. Possibly [116] March 30, 1796, + part of [1,169] March 19, 1796; Hilt thinks they comprised about 210 of June 21, 1796 delivery. Usually with flan chips (foreign matter adhering to dies?). 1) Dr. Angus Black, [(Ill. NN 61:\_) ] Unc.. 2) Kagin, Breen II:198, \$11K, 1977 ANA:5020, AU, \$9K. 3) "Cicero":61, Kagin 305:925 (1/3-4/1975), EF, \$16K. [pC (L? 390?)\_] 4) Manfra Tordella & Brookes "over the counter," EF. 5) Andrew M. Watson:1863, VF, scrubbed. 6) [atc lars?]S 9/13/1968:372, \$2,300.00, "AU". [PL]. 7) Granberg, Woodin, Newcomer, discovery coin, VF, unlocated, possibly same as one of the preceding. See Horiz.-Vert., annot. below 9 leaves in branch [updated] for additional pieces.



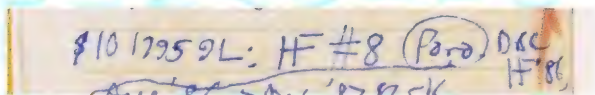
I have seen this before: Breen writing right-handed (source of material) horizontal; left-hand (info. vertical); sometimes simultaneously. R-hand is difficult for me to read; therefore \_\_\_'s.:

9 leaves in branch. [updated]

Horiz.: Letter Marblehead Mass. ACTO the party from which coll. it comes from could be sold for, we all .....Family." .....U \$350 to ?. NC coll..

Vert.: HB-2B 8) Gary Parieti to Brigandi [sic] Unc. scratched. 9) Paretti: ex. Ivy, ANA: 10) to Stack's EF+ O\_ R\_ B&M\_?88 to Dick Appel EF-. 2-3 others reported.

NB 91:95. 1795 9  
Leaves.





Ill. is notable reverse field between OF AME, even on worn specimens.  
Breen Obv. 3. Reverse B, large cud.



Ill. is Breen 3-B, A-4, C-1, N-438. Smaller cud, coin is AU.. See P.T.A. Breen 2 below.



For comparison of leaf tip at U(NI) with above.



Ill. is Breen 2-A.

Rev. A

Obv. 2.

11

This concludes the variety listings for 1795, the fourth reverse of this year and type being held over for use in 1796-97. As obverse 4 did not deteriorate, presumably no more were coined because the mint was unable to dispose of its stock in hand. Julian has shown that there were 176 specimens left on hand at the end of 1795, and coinage resumed in 1796 only after those had been paid out; this practice appears to have been standard through the ensuing years. Depositors generally called for gold to be in half eagles, and commonly ~~they~~ unless they wanted instantaneous payment they managed to exercise some control over the denomination into which they wished their bullion (or foreign coins, etc.) coined. Once the mint began the practice of issuing deposit certificates—actually a form of paper currency redeemable at sight in coins—this problem lessened, but still half eagles remained the most popular denomination in gold, as half dollars were in silver, and cents in copper.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
 I have assumed that variety 4-C, the Nine Leaves rarity, constituted the 116 struck in March 30, 1796, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ possibly overlapping with the variety 4-B. As there is no clearcut hiatus save between January and March 1796, quite possibly the division should be as follows: varieties 1-A and 2-A constitute the 2795 struck during 1795 plus the 1315 struck in January 1796, total 4110; varieties 3-B, 4-B and 4-C the remaining 1473 struck in March 1796. This actually gives about the correct ratio and a Characteristic Ratio ~~of~~ in the neighborhood of  $\frac{3}{4}$  for the former and ~~about 1.08~~ <sup>about 1.08</sup> for the latter. Checking with 1796, the C.R. appears to be ~~about 1.08~~ <sup>about 1.08</sup> ~~1.08~~ <sup>1.08</sup> as the single variety is definitely in the 3-5 level (under 75 known) compared with 41426 struck. This is excellent agreement; the unusually large C.R. for the initial group of 1795's can be ascribed to extensive saving of presentation coins of this initial mintage—exactly as with 1793 wreath cents, 1796 dimes and quarters, etc.



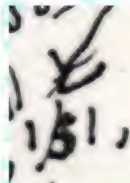
Before proceeding to the coinage dated 1796, I should describe a remarkable struck counterfeit which came to my attention a few years back. (I do not know its present location and have only a rubbing of the piece for descriptive purposes.) Struck in low-grade gold from well-made false dies using letter, numeral and star punches, and long looped and worn down as a watch fob (still retaining xedge repairs from the removed loop), the coin weighs  $26\frac{1}{4}$  grains though in Good to VG condition. (Standard is  $\pm 270$  uncirculated.) The portrait is a caricature; stars are from a curious ~~xxxx~~ asymmetrical punch much longer than it is wide. Tenth star is much closer to border than the first nine; date is spaced 1 7 95 with the 5 tilted far to left and ~~xx~~ away from drapery; BERT is much too close with E well below E. On reverse, eagle's wreath is free of ES, and RIC almost touch each other. Wing at left is shorter than ~~xxxx~~ usual and ~~xxxx~~its contour is much more blunt. Not impossibly better preserved specimens may be found in collections as genuine. As the piece is definitely gold and within normal weight limits, collectors might well be deceived. The issue could not have been extensive in any event.

Hesfetz Auc. 90 (1).

Julian Levitch, U-, scratch obv buffed out. Rotated rev. left 15 degrees.

X) AU., Auc. '89 (PCGS MS-63)

Y) Marshall Field!, see Artyfact.



1795. <sup>WB</sup>  
 1-A 5 wraps her 2 large l. eye Y. R. <sup>below</sup> (CA), R. t. wing: left eye  
 2-A 5 buried in front R. bipped  
 2-B R. gl. o. bipped, smaller #s  
 2-C R. & tiny A. R. w. p. A. Both die bipped  
 3-C 5 clear of front, 100% ve cap

WB: Artyfact. Updates of descriptions, compare with numbers above.

Abner Kreisberg Corp. Public Coin Auction Part III 2/14/1977 John A. Beck 348: "[...]Variety with small die lump in front of first A in AMERICA[...]" Ill. "EF-45". 350 described as same variety as 348. Lot 349 no var. description.

1795—EAGLE. Struck on a small, thin planchet, no milling; parts of stars and lower half of date not on. **Rev.** shows some of the letters and the eagle. Head defaced by 7 dents, evidently for cancellation. Copper. Unique.

Mint errors.

Walter Breen's annotated copy Judd 3rd. This is Ex. Waldo Newcomer. See Important sale catalogs below for a "12 leaves". Also JCM 278th Raymond's copy: 1795 VF **Proof** surface, lot 162, \$38.00

6830 1795 [all kinds 5,583] Stars 10 + 5, 13 leaves in branch.  
 4 vars., Sept. 27, 1795-March 30, 1796. Usually VF to AU

"6.4-A": Hoyle: 665 (BAM 1/2/99)

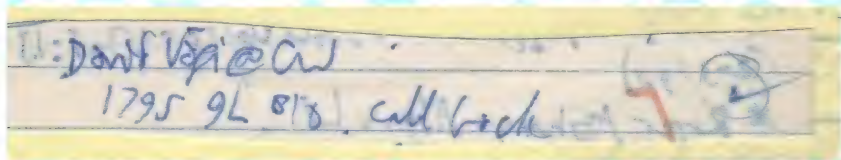


Unpublished correction to Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins {1988} FCI Press. Hereafter Ency.

Breen's annot. Ency p.544. Described as B-1 ill., here corrected to B.4-A. Any 754 page book usually has a few errors that were overlooked or difficult to correct before his rushed publish date; FCI was going bankrupt unknown to WB. I am sure there are a few in this study. Writing fiction is simple, act WB.

NB 62:90. \$10 1795 AE 90 grs. Ex HC 12/11/1916-4/21/1966 Conway Bolt to R. Batchchler. 5/29/1971 to present owner. Weak. Unattributable.

NB 106:155 below.



NB 1960-70's random pages 1795 eagle with mint clips LM.

NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796: Clapp-1; C-2 'U'; C-3 'U'; C-4.

PCA III "Beck" see Bibliography: Catalogs of Auctions 2/14/77:348 \$4,900.00. "1795 First year of issue. Draped capped bust facing right. Rev. Small eagle, 13 leaves on branch. Extremely Fine-45. Variety with small lump in front of first A in AMERICA. Tiny obverse edge bruise below second star on left[...]" Plate. —:349 \$4,850.00. "Choice Extremely Fine-40 with clean surfaces. pinpoint edge nick between 7th and 8th stars. Weak struck center on breast and neck of eagle. Under strong magnification faint file adjustment marks can be seen[...]" Plate. —:350 \$3,600.00. "The third and last of the 1795's from the famous Beck holdings. Very Fine-30. Variety with die lump in front of A. Evenly circulated. When held on side planchet appears to show faint bend[...]" Plate.

BMM "Farouk" 3/20/48:264, 265.

BMM 3/23/48:3783 "[...]This specimen is very fine but it has a tiny cluster of pin-point nicks on center of wreath on reverse, also a pin-point nick on



obverse[...].” \$155.00. [Die variety?]

BMM A.Carter 10/55:267 “First year of issue. Practically uncirculated; the obverse shows slight cabinet friction. The reverse equal to a proof. [...]” —:268 “Another as last. Strictly fine.

J.C.M. #305 4/1933:398 “[...]marred by a small planchet defect on lower obverse edge[...].” \$20.00. See scan Important Sale Catalogues below.

“H.R. Lee” S 10/47:1483 Ex. Col. Green “AU”. \$160.00. Plate.

Auc.’84 “[...]superb Uncirculated[...].”, others in lesser grades.

ms. FCI Descriptions of New Varieties {1977} (1/1976-4/77) Hereafter DNV. 1795. Breen 1-A: I below L; leaf touches U. Abut [sic] Unc., sharply struck except at neck feathers; many light obv. adjustment marks [sic]. The apparent porosity, like the lint marks actually comes from foreign particles adhering [sic] to dies, as on many others of this date. Signs of cleaning, mostly on obv. First variety of the year, probably [sic] the only die combination actually struck in calendar 1795. B0036.

OC NN 1952 ANA:595 Eagles. 1795. The first year of issue. Abt. Uncirculated. Beautifully centered and struck, but with two or three minor defects. Only 2,795 pieces coined. This beauty should realize \$175.00. Sold to Coal \$152. See Bib. below.

KS 4/3-4/59:2684 “[...]Choice about uncirculated. [...]”.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1813.

See Catalogues below: WB’s annot. CSNA 10/1960:888 below.

Bullion Journal A page 72 entry 47: Nov. 19, 1796. ‘[...]assay[...].rec’d[...].from 31 July 1795 to 30 Sept. 1796[...].’ 36 Eagles.

For Warrant numbers and dates see Bibliography below: NB 45:44-5.

Sh&H Chapman Bushnell Estate 6/1882:2408 \$15.50. See WB’s cat. Bib. below

WB's annotated K 1/75:487-9 above; 490 below.

1795 EAGLES

FOUR 1795 EAGLES



Lot No. 487

BIA nu diddy

- 487 1795 First year of issue. Draped capped bust facing right. Rev. Small eagle. 13 leaves in branch. Brilliant Uncirculated with practically all feathers on breast sharp. Very minor handling marks. Almost as nice as the Gaylord specimen that we sold a few years ago. Coins of this quality truly impossible to obtain except in a sale of this magnitude. PLATE



Lot No. 488

BIA

- 488 1795 as above. This specimen is borderline Brilliant Uncirculated with prooflike surface on reverse. Faint adjustment marks center of breast. 13 leaves on branch. Very minor edge bruise over first T in STATES. Some handling marks, but truly a magnificent specimen worthy of the finest home. PLATE

(slight  
unnotice-  
able)



Lot No. 489

BIA

- 489 1795 Small Eagle. The third offering from the famous John A. Beck Collection. 13 leaves in wreath. Lustrous Extremely Fine or a trifle better, with normal handling marks and hardly any circulation. Very attractive and valuable. PLATE

✓

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

39



Lot No. 490

030 W27

490 1795 The fourth specimen in this great collection. 13 leaves on branch. Variety with die bump left of first A in AMERICA near border. Choice Extremely Fine-About  
 Uncirculated with minor faults and handling marks. Tiny scratch in field above  
 branch on left. Rarity 7. Possibly less than 12 pieces of this variety in existence.  
 Should realize a record price. PLATE

See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below.



# WB's annotated E. Adams CCJ V1N2 Introduction & 1795.

May, 1934

## Early United States Gold Coins

### EAGLES

By

EDGAR H. ADAMS

THE first delivery of eagles, or ten-dollar gold pieces, occurred on Sept. 17, 1795, consisting of 400 pieces, after which date there is record of four other deliveries of various amounts, the total amount being \$27,950, or 2,795 pieces. It is supposed that Robert Scott, engraver at the Mint, engraved the dies for the first issue of gold pieces. According to the United States records the first deposit of gold bullion for gold coinage took place on Feb. 12, 1795, having been made by a merchant of Boston, Moses Brown. It consisted of gold ingots to the value of \$2,276.22.

On April 15, 1790, the Congress of the United States instructed Alexander Hamilton to prepare a plan for the establishment of a Mint. Mr. Hamilton in a later report, adopting the dollar as a unit, proposed among other coins, for the issue of two denominations of gold pieces, the first, equal in weight and value to ten units, or dollars, and the second, equal to a tenth part of the former, to be the unit, or dollar. (This denomination in gold was not struck until many years later, in 1849.) This report was made to Congress on Jan. 28, 1791, and on March 3, 1791, a resolution was passed for the establishment of the mint. On April 2, 1792, the law for the mint was approved by President Washington, the act providing for the striking of three denominations of gold coins—namely, the eagle, of ten dollars, to weigh 270 grains, of the fineness of 22 carats, or 917 thousandths, and a half or quarter eagle, in proportion.

Mr. Hamilton in estimating the relative value of gold and silver, supposed

that gold was worth fifteen times as much as silver. This ratio afterwards was found to be too low, as the market value was nearer sixteen to one on a general average, and the actual value of the eagle was considerably in excess of its face value, or about \$10.50. It is said that this fact was soon discovered by speculators and many of the eagles did not reach general circulation, after being issued from the mint, but were immediately taken up, and presumably remelted, which accounts for their scarcity. The coinage of this denomination of the original weight and fineness ceased in 1804, and was not resumed until 1838, when the ten-dollar piece was once more issued under the act of June 28, 1834, which provided for a fineness of 899.225 and a weight of 258 grains.

It is said that President Washington, in July, 1795, expressed the desire to see gold coins being issued at the United States Mint before the term of his office expired, and this wish was gratified in October of the same year, when the Director of the Mint, Henry William de Saussure, delivered one hundred eagles to the President.

There is difficulty in ascertaining the exact number of coins issued by the Mint in the early period of its operation, owing to the fact that the exact number by calendar year was not always recorded, but rather by fiscal year. Nevertheless, it is probable that most of the amount recorded by year in the Mint Director's report give an approximate idea. The total amount of eagles recorded for the period 1795 to 1804, inclusive, is given as \$1,325,920, or 132,592 pieces.

The mint records by year, are as follows:

1793-5	27,950.00
1796	60,800.00
1797	91,770.00
1798	79,740.00
1799	174,830.00
1800	259,650.00
1801	292,540.00
1802	150,900.00
1803	89,790.00
1804	97,950.00

There are five varieties of the 1795 eagle.



N E1—Star under left lower curl distant from adjoining star. Rev.—Point of stem touches "A". Leaf does not touch "U". Woodin 1182. C3



C2—Star below curl evenly spaced. Star closer to "Y" than on No. 1. Five stars in front of bust do not touch each other. Rev.—Leaf touches "U". Clapp. C2



E3—Star touches "Y". Five stars in front of bust touch each other. Rev.—Same as No. 2. Earle 2285. = C4



E4—Point of upper star touches cap. Rev.—Seems to be same as that of No. 1. Woodin 1180. C1



5—Same as No. 1. Rev.—End of stem does not touch or come very close to "A". End of one leaf touches centre of "U". Nine distinct leaves in branch. There is a die defect at the end of the second leaf. Clapp.

There is only one known variety of 1796.



E1—Eight stars before the bust; eight after. Rev.—Point of stem touches the left foot of "A". Woodin 1183.

32

Lower left annot. is next page below.



s cap.  
that of



f stem  
/ close  
ouches  
leaves  
ect at  
Clapp.  
ety of



eight  
ouches //  
1183. 1/2

A		B	
S	10	4C	+ L
E1	1A	4B	LAST
E14	4A	3B	
E12	2B	2A	
E13	3B	1A	1ST

(P) 40 1/2 C1 NOT 1795-C BUT  
V SIM. 9 1/2 LEAVES  
SMALL DIG IN DIE BELOW TOP - 3RD  
LEAF COUNTING.



Annot. too small to read enlarged on page above.



26

**EAGLES  
TEN DOLLAR GOLD  
CAPPED BUST TO RIGHT, SMALL EAGLE 1795-1797**



**THE VERY RARE 1795 BREEN 3-B  
ONE OF THE FINEST KNOWN**

197 1795. Breen 3-B. (Low R-7) About Unc., lustrous, partly prooflike; small lint marks (from lint adhering to die at time of striking) on cap and in fields; light obv. adjustment marks (in planchet before striking; obv. more sharply struck than rev., which also shows faint traces of cabinet friction, from when this piece occupied a velvet display tray. Faint signs of old cleaning. **One of the finest known of this rare and elusive variety, apparently second finest known.** (The solitary uncirculated piece was in the Parmelee sale in 1890 and has not been seen since.) Few have been offered publicly in any grade: Walton 3088 was burnished, Beck 490 was EF and scratched up, and that in the 1951 ANA Convention sale was only VF. (Other specimens offered with the die lump have proved to be Breen 4-B's, much less rare.) (Photo)

Star touches cap; plain lump between FA.

**ONE OF 5 KNOWN OF THE  
EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1795 NINE LEAVES EAGLE  
SECOND FINEST KNOWN**

198 1795. Small eagle, first design and first year of issue. Breen 4-C, Adams 5, Newcomer 439. Almost R-8. The exceedingly rare variety with only 9 (rather than 13) leaves in branch on which eagle stands. ABOUT UNC. OR BETTER, SOME ORIGINAL PROOFLIKE SURFACE, small pre-striking planchet chip between rim and 9th star, small plain lint mark (as made) just above bottom rev. rim, minor rev. adjustment marks plainest at center (also as made), a number of minute granular defects (in flan before striking), light signs of old cleaning, of no importance. Except in very centers on either side, this is well struck and centered. **The variety's extreme rarity is attributed to immediate failure of this reverse die; the breaks at first T of STATES and below branch are well advanced. At present only five specimens are located, despite extensive**

**U.S. EAGLES**

search, the present one being by a small margin second finest:

1. Dr. Angus Black coll., Uac. Very similar to this one.
2. The present example. AU.
3. "Cicero" 61, EF, severe planchet defects.
4. Ex Granberg (misremembered as "Clapp" in Adams's 1934 series), Woodin, Newcomer. VF. Unlocated.
5. Andrew M. Watson coll. (Oct. 1966), lot 1863. VF but abrasively cleaned. (Photo)

B.3-B; 4-C above.

Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

CHECKLIST ON EAGLES, 1795-1804; JANIS-BREEN Collaboration. N=1926/31 Newcomer Inventory;  
A=Adams, 1934 CCJ; C=Notebook of John H. Clapp.  
Order given here is in all cases chronological when that can be determined.  
*(Handwritten notes in margin: "C-100-A - 1st issue, S.A. collected - trace original OR u OCM")*

JB Dies	A	C	N & p.	Remarks
1-A	3	4	137 v150U	I had - A family do and won very good to each - see 3rd
2-A	2	2	136 u 50?	
4-B	1	3	135 v150	Wine leaves in branch, as in 1796. All others have
4-C	5	-	139 v1100	R.R.

**RARE 1795 \$10.00 GOLD**

958. 1795 \$10.00 GOLD EAGLE - FIRST YEAR OF ISSUE - A BEAUTIFUL COIN - ABOUT EXTRA FINE THAT SHOULD REALIZE NEAR (Plate)

959. 1799 \$10.00 Gold Eagle - About A U. But

WB's annotated 1959:958 ANA above.

1796



Ill. is Breen 1-A, A-1, C-1, N-440.

1 7 9 6		
Mintage listed as 6934, including the first five deliveries of January through March earlier cited as evidently from dies dated 1795. Mintage dated 1796 presumably totaled 4146 pieces. Though the final delivery of 854 pieces, Dec. 22, 1796, followed the yellow fever epidemic, it was presumably normal, as there is no evidence of use of any rusted or badly broken dies of 1795. Deliveries:		
Warrant	Date	Egles
52	June 2	2332
66	June 21	960
79	Dec. 22	854
One might argue that some part of the June 2 delivery might have been dated 1795 because there would have been little time to complete a die		

Breen 1-A = Hilt 4D. Hilt thinks [3,615] of March 25-May 2, 1797.

Stars 8+8 matches QE & none other.

Usually VF to AU, possibly 35-50 survivors; few lower grades; possibly 5-8 prooflike Uncs.. Often weak in centers. Dohrmann, Garrett:1656, (AU,



\$40K); Pierce, Auction '82:941, Unc., \$29K.

for 1796 on receipt of the news of Tennessee's admission and still to strike 2332 coins. This is possible. On the other hand, one might as easily argue that the die intended for 1796 had been completed except for the date, or even the last digit, well before that time; or that it had been given its device and LIBERTY, addition of stars and date only awaiting news of congressional approval of Tennessee's petition to join the Union. Since stars and numerals could be added in a few hours by hand, the die hardened the same day and put into immediate use, there is no reason to believe that this was not in fact done. Placement of LIBERTY farther to left than usual suggests that an arrangement of 8+8 stars was contemplated from the beginning should Tennessee be admitted by the time eagles were next ordered by local depositories; or 8+7 (as on ~~silver~~ denominations) should admission be delayed or denied. In the latter event presumably the lowest star on right would have been omitted, giving in fact a more balanced appearance to the die. Not impossibly, then, the xi die might have been completed save for the 16th star and the final digit (which might have been a 6 or a 7 depending on the date of the next order for eagles from depositories), ~~xxxx~~awaiting the news from Congress.

Only a single variety dated 1796 is known.

E. 1-A. Stars 8 + 8; branch with 11 leaves. A-1; C-1; H-40.

Obv. 1. Differs from all other dies, 1795-1804, in having eight stars left and eight right. This arrangement matches that on the 1796 quarter eagle of second type, minted late in the year. Date low and closely spaced.

Rev. A. Type of 1795 and similar to Rev. C of that year, but with eleven leaves in branch. Stem touches left foot of final A in AMERICA (hold coin so that this A is upright); wider spaces than usual between words, terminal leaves of wreath under left part of E in STATES--farther to left than usual; minute pit mark in die (rust mark?) below tip of third from right leaf in branch.

R-5 and fairly high in that level. There are several (possibly 5 to

BMM A.Carter 10/55:269 'Ef' [...]. It is doubtful if this coin was ever in circulation."

1796 Stars 8+8 [4,146 corrected] These notes are nearly unreadable,

however: AU N:2134, 53 ANA HB1-A.

14

8) almost undistinguishable prooflike uncirculated specimens in numismatic circulation, together with possibly 30 to 45 in the VF to AU range. I can well believe that the total surviving is 60 to 70. This date is much rarer than 1795 though seldom appreciated as such. The difference in popularity is naturally to be attributed to 1795's being the initial year of issue. The prooflike specimens, altogether different in appearance from the more frosty ones, may well have been presentation pieces of some kind on the occasion of Tennessee's admission. It is significant that for 1796 ED and no other year of the period, prooflike specimens of all denominations of United States coins are known. Prooflike examples of various denominations are occasionally found for other years—1795 dollars, 1795, 1800 and 1804 original eagles, 1800 half-eagles, etc.—but in no other year than 1796 could a full set of such pieces be assembled. True proofs were not struck, so far as I know, as none of these coins appear to have been given the repeated blows from the press to bring up the designs in the unusual clarity of proofs, though that technique and the general appearance of proofs surely would have been known to the mint personnel from sample ~~ex~~ proofs furnished by Boulton & Watt some years earlier as well as from proofs issued by the British and French mints.



III. is Breen 1-A, A-1, C-1.

Presentation Piece state: Almost indistinguishable from one another. Brilliant proof surfaces & unusually sharp striking on stars, central curls, breast feathers, etc.. Nearly a half-dozen are around in collector circulation. [See

also P bk. ms.].

JCM#311, 10/18/33:227 "1796 About uncirculated, only the slightest rubbing in the field. Brilliant mint lustre, an unusual specimen of this date. *Illustrated.*" \$100.00.

See Important sale catalogs below for an "eraser job". Also W.Raymond's copy: JCM 278th sale: lot 163 VF Light scratch across bust, \$35.00.00.

NB:WBV#15p.8 below. Clapp to Earle inventory pedigrees.

8/10 Clapp & Pedigree  
Memo from the desk of DA

1795 C1 Petry '23  
2 SHAC 7/09 '50  
3 H. H. H. 10/09 '36  
4 Earle '32

96 ~~1~~ Petry '32  
97 1 G. Mills '40  
2 ~~Mills~~ Earle '21  
3 Zug 10/08 (09?) '24  
4 Wordin '23

98 1 1/2 Speddy '33  
2 7-1 Rutherford 3/97 '50

99 1 SHAC 4/97 '14  
2 35 Earle '20  
3 3/4 Sears '30 7/10  
4 1/2 " " "  
5 1/2 Earle '20  
6 Earle '20 5/2

60 1 Mills  
01 1 Wordin '39 14 '03  
2 Zug 10/09 '24 14 '00

03 1/2 1/2 Green 5/6 '23  
2 1/2 Earle '18  
3 1/2 Jewels '33

04 1 A Mills '48  
2 PL Wordin '01

BMM "Farouk" 3/23/48:266, 267.

BMM 3/23/48:3784 "1796 Same as 1795, but with eight stars to right and eight stars to left of bust. Uncirculated with almost full brilliant luster. The



mint luster is proof-like. Just the slightest touch of cabinet friction..." \$130.00.

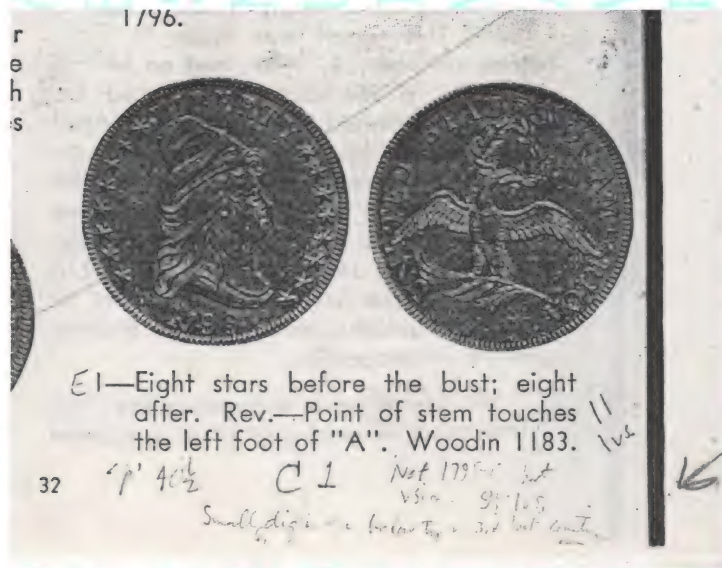
S Smith 5/55:1814 "1796 Full lustre. Uncirculated. Scarce. Plate." NN bid to purchase OTRLY WB in pencil redacted 'Uncirculated' added "VF eraser job".

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below.

For Warrant numbers and dates see Bib. below:NB 45:44-5.

WB's annot. E Adams CCJ VIN2 1796.



See enlarged annot. below.

[B&W copy superior to original color scan.]

ety of



eight  
ouches 11  
1183. 1/2

(p) 40 1/2 CI NOT 1795-C BUT  
VSIM. 9 1/2 LEAVES  
SMALL DIG IN DIE BELOW TOP V 3RD  
LEAF COUNTING.



Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

1796.  
1-A  
1797.

1

1

Lib Plot Tiny dig in die below tip of 3rd leaf from rt. 9 1/2 leaves.

Elder 10/1908:1 1796 Liberty head, 16 stars. Rev. standing eagle. Slightest nick before nose. VF. Plate. Chapman \$24.00.

1797

Ill. is Breen 1-A, A-1, C-1, N-441. Small Eagle.

Note crack, rim into field below star 16.



1797

Mintage reported as 8323 and elsewhere as 9177. The true figure for coins dated 1797 is much larger than that and can be arrived at only through careful analysis together with tentative reconstruction based in part on knowledge of mint conditions following the yellow-fever epidemic of 1797 and of the C.R.'s for ~~1797~~ 1795 through 1798. Deliveries:

Warrant	Date	Eagles
85	March 25	5
86	April 5	831
87	April 20	1630
88	May 2	1149

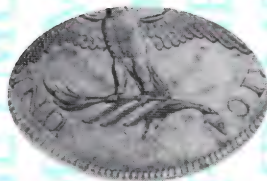
15

91	June 7	1907
93	June 29	2801

**Yellow fever epidemic**

102	Jan. 11, '98	1648
104	Jan. 20	1097
105	JAN. 23	1464
106	Jan. 30	2023





The best fit to these figures seems to be arrived at by assuming that the first three deliveries, or possibly the first two and some part of the third, include the entirety of the Small Eagle type. The single obverse die ~~mark~~ found with a Small Eagle reverse looks like a left-over die from 1795 or '96. The placement of LIBERTY with respect to the cap is more like that found on the 1795 dies, but we may not assume that stars 10 + 5 had been added while the die was still incompletely dated; there was then no way of welding metal onto a die blank to obliterate a star already there. Possibly the die had been ~~none~~ intended for 1795 but blundered by being starred 11 + 4, the twelfth star (that at the very top of the cap) being added at the time the final numeral of the date was put in; possibly it had been given only 10 + 4 stars in anticipation of admission of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Tennessee and one other state, the placement of the stars to be left to decision to be made at the time when the die would be needed, as it could be completed in a few hours. It was obviously a product of great haste, as the 12+4 arrangement actually chosen was poorly balanced (11+5 would have been better) and the die ~~was~~ appears to have cracked in the final hardening or at the initial use and retained in use as long as possible. Not impossibly, too, the fourth delivery of May 2 might also have included some small eagle coins. The decision on this is very difficult to make. Assuming a fairly constant C.R., one would then expect ~~xxxx~~ Heraldic Eagle coins to be approximately three times as often found as Small Eagle coins of 1797 (10940 as against 3615 minted, with a C.R. in the neighborhood of

1.3%); if the May 2 delivery consisted of Heraldic Eagle coins, then the ratio would be about 5 to 1 of Heraldic to Small Eagle types (12,089 to 2466, with the same C.R.). As it happens, though I formerly published the 2466 figure as the most probable, I now believe that the 3615 figure for Small Eagle coins ~~is~~ fits the available data better. The variety is R-<sup>5</sup>~~5~~ ~~high~~ rather than high R-6; at the very best it ~~is~~ on the lower border of R-6. Also, by actual count I have seen only about three times as many Heraldic Eagle 1797's as Small Eagle ~~is~~ coins, and this ratio is borne out by the appearances of the two types at auction over the past seventy years. Of the three varieties of Heraldic Eagle 1797's, two are high R-4 and one borderline R-7. The total indicated population is less than four times that for the Small Eagle. Accordingly, my tentative reconstruction is:

Small Eagle--3615

Heraldic Eagle--10940.

Total, 14555. My reasons for including the January 1798 deliveries as 1797 coins and assuming that the 1798-dated coins were those struck in February (1742 in all, 900 with four stars facing and 842 with six stars facing) are of much the same character, as ~~there~~ is no reason to assume unusual ~~destructive~~ <sup>iv</sup> forces acting on the 1798's to make them rarer than one would expect from the mintages reported, nor unusual hoarding to make them unduly common. (See below, under 1798, for further discussion.) <sup>revised</sup> ~~The coins must have been made late in 1797 as they bear 13 stars rather than 16.~~

To the varieties:

B. 1-A. Stars 12 + 4; small eagle. A-1; C-1; W-441.

Obv. 1. Four stars facing, twelve behind, one of them running into numeral 1 of date and obviously inappropriately added after the die ~~is~~ had been initially laid out. Always found with some stage of a straight die break ~~from~~ radially from edge pointing to center, just missing 16th (lower right) star. No perfect die coins are known or even rumored, though the break varies from light to very heavy, on the last stages extending

Blue pencil: The Heraldic reverses must all have been made in late 1797 because they bear 13 stars rather than 16.

Star in contact with 1(7) should be considered "Blundered die".[Misc. ms.]

## Small Eagle.

P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:199 B.1-A see Bibliography below.

1797 Stars 12 + 4 [3,615] SE. Notes are hard to read: Early

AU JCM 9/19/1935, N: 2\_ below star 16 crack

Mint, S.I. 17.457 grs. Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I. 17.483

grs. HB 1-A rev of '96.

Severely water-damaged photo of Garrett:1657 with arrow pointing to rim at 4:45 o'clock, noting star 16, &/or dentil(s). WB wrote on back: Mickley, Appleton, THG, WEW 1883. Not reproduced here.

Breen 1-A (12+4 stars) = Hilt 5D, who thinks [1,907], June 5, 1797. Only one seen with unbroken dies; <<<<(as ill. in ency is Garrett:1657) see ency & find ill.>>>> all others show breaks on last stages extending into check & jaw.

Possibly 25-30 VF to AU, 5 or 6 Unc.. Mickley, Appleton, Garrett(:1657, AU, \$39K); Carter:730, Unc., \$30,250.00.

NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796: Small Eagle.

"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1485 "[...]4 stars[...]from the Col. Green Collection[...]." \$250.00. Plate.

JCM#311, 10/18/33:228 "1797 With small eagle. Very fine and very rare. *Illustrated.*" \$125.00.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:270 " 1797 The rare variety with small eagle. Beautiful uncirculated specimen; almost equal to a proof on reverse. It is struck so perfect that the light die break on obverse shows very plainly."

Elder 10/1908:3 Four stars before bust. 12 behind. Die slight cracked below last star. EF. Plate. \$50.50 Chapman.

Early  
AU JCM  
9/19/35, N:2  
below  
star 16



## **Heraldic Eagle.**

Color ill. is B 2-B.

Crack below 7.

B&w to right no crack.

Note star 8 above beak.



Ill. is B 2-C. Diamond shape (cross)1,2,7,8 compare star 8 position above beak with rev. B. Stem curved away from tail. P-like well struck known. For later die state see B.2-C description in Bib. below in WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:2052, 'EF+'.

Arrows & Olive branch on reverse are transposed as in 1796-1807 Quarter Eagle & 1795-1807 Half Eagle. See Introductory text of both denominations, & 1798 below.

17

well into neck and jaw. Probably the die had to be discarded early because of the break.

Rev. A. Same as the 1796 reverse, showing eleven leaves ~~main~~ branch and a slightly enlarged pit mark or rust mark below tip of third from right leaf ~~if~~ <sup>of</sup> branch.

R-5, high. There are five or six brilliant uncirculated examples around, one of them impounded, ~~in the~~ <sup>Woodin: 1184</sup> the others appearing from time to time in auctions; others known are mostly ~~in~~ in the VF to AU range. I have auction records for seventeen different specimens within the last few years and for nearly thirty in all, and I do not believe for a moment that this exhausts the census.

Type II. Heraldic Eagle.

B. 2-B. Stars 10 + 6; rev. 2nd and 8th stars nearly in a horizontal line. A-2; C-2; N-442.

Obv. 2. Similarly laid out die, but with only 10 stars at left, 6 at right. Perfect die or with faint crack from rim radially through base and left serif of final 7 to drapery; in this marriage, the crack is never heavy.

Rev. B. "Abnormal" arrangement of stars in diamond-shaped patterns, similar to that on a number of dies of 1798 in various denominations. Thirteen stars, basically laid out in a row of 6, a row of 5, one before beak and one behind eagle's neck (numbered from now on serially: top row, 1st to 6th; second row, ~~6~~ 7th to 11th; beak star is 12th and neck star 13th), but 3rd, 9th, 10th and 11th are about in a straight line and evenly spaced, and (distinctively) 2nd and 8th are ~~XX~~ almost horizontal, 8th much closer ~~in~~ to 3rd than to 7th. 6th star is weak; all stars have notched northeast point. Branch straight. Perfect die; later shows a straight crack from rim to cloud almost midway between final S in STATES and O in OF.

R-4, high. There are eight or nine uncirculated ~~gems~~ floating around and a considerable number in the VF to AU range. In demand because of the date 1797, though by no means rare. I doubt it is a full R-5.

*Woodin: 1185 "Proof"*

B. 2-C. Similar; rev. 2nd and 8th stars in a line pointing to eagle's eye. A-3; C-3; H-443.

Obv. 2. Now always with the crack through final 7 to drapery. It varies from fairly light to heavy.

Rev. C. Similar to preceding; "abnormal" arrangement of stars, this time with 7th, 8th and 3rd almost evenly spaced, 2nd and 8th in a line slanting far down from the horizontal and pointing to eagle's eye; 3rd does not make ~~xxx~~ quite a straight line with 9th, 10th and 11th; 6th of normal size; stem curved, pointing downwards and bending minutely to right (away from tail). Perfect and with crack developing ~~fix~~ from rim between ER of AMERICA, varying from light to heavy.

R-7 borderline. Not in Eliasberg; Newcomer's was only EF and the Gossan piece is the only gem uncirculated one I have encountered. Gaylord's and that in the April 1955 Associated Coin Auction Co. sale were AU and may have been the same piece (available photographs do not permit me to distinguish between them); another in the same grade was in the Brand-Lichtenfels sale. <sup>Probably of 1798, 1857 or 1860</sup> The 1951 ANA Convention auction contained an EF piece. Besides these, I cannot locate any others, though there are probably a few more around. The early discard of this die is probably to be ascribed to the break, which must have developed rapidly.

B. 2-D. Similar; rev. of 1798, normal arrangement, <sup>1st and</sup> 7th to 10th stars almost in a straight line. A-4; C44; H-444.

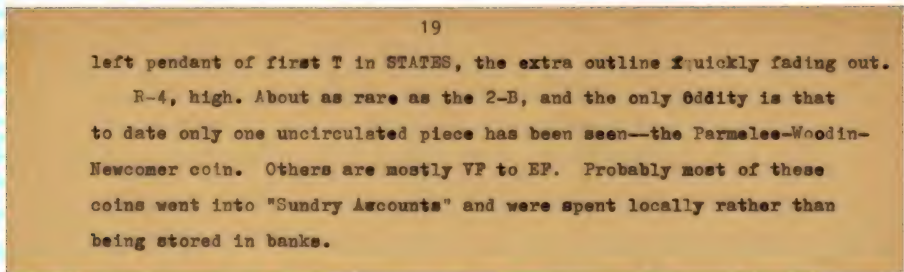
Obv. 2. The crack is always plain.

Rev. D. Normal arrangement of stars, in a row of 6, a row of 15, beak star and one behind neck, not in diamond-shaped patterns; 7th is <sup>1st and</sup> directly above 12th, and 7th through 10th are about in a straight line. 12th star is distant from beak, but directly to left of it rather than below it--eagle's neck is shorter than on former dies. <sup>1st and</sup> evidently a new device punch having been put into use (note differences at right end of scroll, at legs, higher relief of breast above shield, etc.). Claw does not grip stem. Stem is shorter than on previous dies. Recutting on





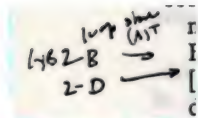
Star 8 is above beak to right, (rev. C is a little to left). Not diamond shaped "Abnormal". Rev. B., stem is not curved. Obv. 2: always cracked rim to base of 7. Look how close \* 16 is to bust. Ill. is Breen 2-B, A-2, C-2, N-442. See P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:200 in Bib. below. "Cross" 3 Stars in parallel straight line with right wing (to observe left).



No positive evidence of Presentation Pieces is known. However the new reverse design was probably tempting. Note above Breen 2-B (A-2, C-2, N-442) Woodin:1185 was sold in 1911 for an astoundingly high figure as "Proof" & no equal example has been seen since. Breen did not see this coin (unless I missed the notation).

Additional information on first die pairs:

Breen knew this: Prior to 700 C.E. crucifixion was on an X, following 700 C.E. it was T shaped, later stylized t (sword).



See B&W ill. above Breen 2-C. [10,940 in all] "Cross" Annot. p.546: LY6 2-B (lump above (A)T), 2-D. LY6 is nearly illegible, this may be incorrect.

B 2-B & 2-C = Hilt 6E, 6F. Hilt thinks these are [4,449] + [2,561] (Warrants #93, 102, 104, 105). Price as for Breen 2-B, with straight branch; Zug, Clapp to Eliasberg coll., AU/Unc.. Variety 2-C is much rarer, especially late die (break between ER to leaf).

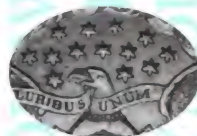


Rev. D. Short neck eagle.

Normal arrangement of stars.

Recut pendant T.

2-D, HE. Same obv.; "arc" star arrangement. Rev. A of 1798, later state. Obv. always with crack through final 7 to drapery. Available for a price in VF to AU; prohibitively rare in mint state. Garrett was EF.





KS 4/3-4/59:2685 “[...]Large Eagle. A brilliant specimen. Sharp, but has some hairlines in field. [...] ‘vf’[...]’ef’[...]. —:2686 ‘AEF’.

**EAGLE.** Regular dies trial piece.

**25. Copper**—R.E. R.8.

(The piece listed as A-W 20 is a die trial. See appendix A.)

15

**1797**

**EAGLE** (heraldic type). **Rev.** Regular die, **lead.** (From Woodside collection. Genuineness doubted.)

**1800**

Walter Breen’s annotated Judd 3rd above.

OC NN 1952 ANA:596 “1797. Large heraldic eagle. Die break through center of 7 in date. Hardly better than Fine, and with several indications of handling.” Sold to Cork \$82 1/2. See Bib. below.

See important catalogs below for: JCM 278th sale, lot 164, LG eagle rev., VF& sharp, \$22.50. Cat. 3/24-5/88 Norweb 2136 says B-2-D but not so. Also B&R 10/27-9/1982 643-4-5 ill. in error. Beck 2/14/1977:352 described as EF-40 “Variety with die crack at first 7 in date.” Ill. 353: “[...]Crack at final 7 in date. Few criss-cross faint scratches around stars on reverse and in field below UN and top of shield.[...]”. Ill. 354: described as VF-30 “[...]Die crack thru final 7 in date to drapery[...].” Ill.

NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796.

PCA III 2/14/77:351 \$3,750.00. “[...]About Uncirculated-50[...].” Plate. —:352 \$2,600.00. “[...]Extremely Fine-40. Variety with die crack at first 7 in date[...].” Plate. —:353 \$1,850.00. “[...]Extremely Fine-40[...].Incomplete milling[...].Crack at final 7 in date. Few criss-cross faint scratches around stars on reverse and in field below UN and top of shield[...].” Plate. —:354 \$1,750.00. “[...]Very Fine-30. Die crack thru final 7 in date to drapery[...].Portions of milling intended over ED and STATES[...].” Plate.



BMM "Farouk" 3/23/48:268, 269, 270, 271.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:271 'U'.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1815.

Beck III:351.

See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below.

FOUR 1797 LARGE EAGLE \$10 GOLD

- 492 1797 Second type. Heraldic Eagle on Reverse. Choice About Uncirculated with faint bag marks. Prooflike surface on reverse and much mint bloom on obverse. Though this is not a flawless coin it is one of the nicest we have seen in years. Variety with planchet flaw as struck between ER on obverse.

WB's annot. K 1/75:492 above; 493-5 below.

VERY RARE 1798/7 EAGLE - \$10 GOLD



Lot No. 493

- 493 1797 Type as above. Heraldic Eagle reverse. This coin is choice Brilliant Uncirculated, but due to contact with other coins the surface is not flawless. Under magnification traces of friction seen. The reverse is prooflike. A very sharply struck coin with faint die crack through final 7 to rim. PLATE
- 494 1797 Heraldic Eagle. The third specimen offered. Lustrous About Uncirculated, again without signs of circulation, but definite contact with other coins. Under 10X magnification faint adjustment marks can be seen across cap. Rare this choice.
- 495 1797 Large eagle, the fourth specimen and equal to the preceding three in every way. Lustrous About Uncirculated, with friction marks or rubs in field. Almost full proof surface on reverse. Comparable specimens sold as choice Uncirculated. Should realize very high bid.

WB's annot. E Adams CCJ VIN2 1797 below.

May, 1934



Of 1797 there are four varieties.

E1—Obverse four stars before the bust; twelve behind. Die crack before lower star in front of the bust. This variety has the small eagle reverse. Woodin 1184. *Rev of 1796 C1*

4—Obverse about the same as foregoing, with a die crack through the second 7. Rev.—Shows star almost in front of eagle's beak, and one star to the left in line with the eagle's head. The three stars to the left of head almost in form of triangle. Woodin 1186. *C4*

E2—Obverse six stars before the bust; ten behind. Die crack before lower star in front of the bust. The final 7 of date slightly distant from bust. Rev.—Heraldic eagle. Star almost above eagle's head. Star under beak. Berry in branch over left foot of A. Smith 163. *late, old s10 C2*

There are two varieties of 1798, both struck over 1797.

E1—Obverse four stars before bust; nine behind. Struck over 1797. Die crack through L of LIBERTY. Rev.—Same as No. 4 of 1797. Woodin 1188. *late, old A. Smith C1*

E2—Obverse with a die crack through the second 7 of date. Rev.—Star before the eagle's beak, and two stars in line to the left of beak. Trace of die crack between E and R. Stem of branch turns downward and slightly to the right. Woodin 1187. *C3*

E2—Obverse six stars before bust; seven behind. Struck over 1797. Little die defect near the last star, close to the bust. Rev.—Seems to be the same as foregoing. This is the rarest of the eagles, and a fine specimen brought \$410 at the Woodin sale. Woodin 1189. *C2*

Disregard two in second column lower right, see 1798 below.

Elder 10/1908:2 Six stars before head, 10 behind, Fine. Plate. \$15.25  
Hessleinl [sic?].

Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

1797.

1-A	1	1	hhl w7000	Small eagle. Rev. of 1796. <i>Wt. first of the 7</i>
2-B	2	2	hhl2 w60	Perf. obv. die, not ekd. Rev. Northeast pts. of all ss notched.
2-C	3	3	hhl3 x27	Obv. now always ekd. Develops ck. S of.
2-D	4	4	hhl4 ul50	Rev. used in 1796. Claw doesnot grip stem; first T recut on left pendent.



1798

1798

Mintage commonly reported as 7974, but this figure is known to include many pieces dated 1797. The pieces dated 1798 are believed to come from the following deliveries only:

Warrant	Date	Eagles
109	Feb. 17	900
110	Feb. 28	842

In the coins of this date two previously unused 1797 dies were altered to 1798 after softening; the overdates are never clear, in general only the serif of 7 being visible at upper left of 8. The first obverse has stars ~~nineteen~~ arranged 9 + 4, the second 7 + 6, Scott or his assistant evidently still being uncertain as to the ~~fixed~~ most satisfactory layout of stars even after the decision sometime in the latter half of 1797 to adopt 13 stars as the permanent number.

The two 1798 varieties are ~~usually~~ believed to be the rarest of the early eagles, and it is commonly assumed that the variety with ~~xx~~ 6 stars facing is many times rarer than the other one. Both assumptions are wrong, and the rarity ~~figures~~ herein assigned will come as a great surprise to many collectors and possibly a rude shock to some dealers. There is actually very little difference in the numbers known of the two varieties, though the second (stars 7 + 6) is highly prized, seldom offered for sale and seldom auctioned--most specimens, once bought at exorbitant prices, tend for some reason to stay with their owners for long periods. ~~The~~ Nevertheless, the total population of coins dated

1798 in this denomination actually is low in comparison with all the other Early Dates, and this requires some explanation.

Earlier I assigned the four deliveries of Jan. 11-30, 1798 to the "emergency" issues following the Mint's reopening after the 1797 yellow fever epidemic, and for various reasons (hinging on the assumption that there was neither abnormal hoarding nor any abnormal destructive force specially acting on the coins of this period) assumed that these were from ~~the~~ 1797 dies of the Heraldic Eagle type. They were sandwiched in between the Jan. 4 and Feb. 28 deliveries of half eagles and are close in time to other mintages known to be of the emergency issue, cobbled together ~~from~~ from any dies even briefly usable (for details see my monograph on half eagles). The mint had to execute sizable backlogs of orders for coins of various denominations in a short time and under considerable pressure, and there was not time either in December 1797 or January 1798 to make dies. ~~in~~ <sup>two</sup> the presses used for hubbing device punches into working dies were the same/presses used to make the larger <sup>size</sup> denominations (eagles, dollars, half dollars, cents), and as Coiner's Department personnel under Adam Eckfeldt had to be pressed into service whenever new dies were needed, for forging the die blanks, lathe-annealing them, turning them, cutting necks on them, ~~sinking~~ sinking the hubs or device punches into them, reannealing them for repetition of the sinking until the design was imparted in full detail, hand-finishing and finally hardening them. It follows that the chronically understaffed ~~mint~~ engraving department, calling on coining department employees to help when dies were needed, must have nearly or quite monopolized those people and the available equipment during periods when quantities of dies were being made. During December 1797 and January 1798 the mint personnel were extremely busy in making cents, <sup>dollars,</sup> half eagles and eagles. The dies put into use in that period must have been made before the yellow fever epidemic of 1797. This makes altogether reasonable the assumption that the eagles struck in January 1798 were in fact the

1797 Heraldic Eagle coins.

And then in the last half of February we find two isolated and tiny deliveries of eagles--the last deliveries until the very large delivery of May 14, 1799. It is reasonable to assume that this coinage represented the 1798/7 eagles. <sup>The</sup> ~~21~~ approximately 30 surviving specimens --assuming that the C.R. of about 1.8% to 1.9% continues to hold good-- must represent ~~an~~ <sup>1600 to 1900</sup> original mintage in the neighborhood of ~~2500~~ specimens. This fits the assignment of the 1798/7 eagle coinage to the February mintage totaling 1742. But what is still more important confirmation, the ratio between the two varieties is entirely consistent with my belief that the 900 of Feb. 17 represent the ~~21~~ four stars facing coins, and the 842 of Feb. 28 the six stars facing eagles. There are apparently 17 or 18 of the former and at least 13 of the latter, corresponding almost exactly to the abovementioned C.R. of 1.9% (the exact figures are 2% and 1.7%, which is an excellent fit).

We can even account for the brevity of the issue. Both obverse dies broke down quickly, and the 7+6 die was used until it shattered to a degree not found tolerable on earlier eagles. Probably it would only stand up to the 842 coins struck from it. If this coinage was executed to fill a rush order, as appears to be the case, quite likely the remainder of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ bullion was paid for in half eagles. After this time there appears to have been another spate of die-sinking activity followed by large coinages of cents, silver dollars and half eagles.

B 1-A. Stars 9 + 4. A-1; C-1; N-445.

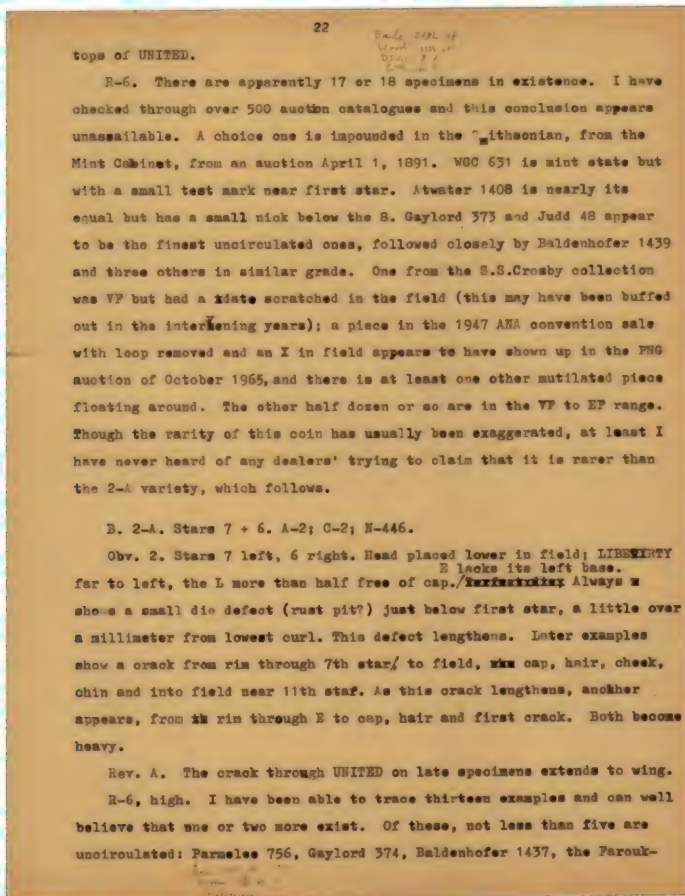
Obv. 1. Overdate, 1798/7, 9 stars at left and 4 at right. Perfect and with crack from rim through L into cap and hair; later still, another crack develops from rim through upright of " to brow and first crack. Both cracks become quite heavy. This coin is often struck slightly off center so that the border is widest at top and left obverse, narrowest at lower right obv.

Rev. A. Same as 1797 Rev. D. Often shows a faint crack through



8/7 Stars 9+4: One of the 2 great rarities of this period. The other Stars 7+6.

1798/7 Breen 1-A. Stars 9+4 [900] HE. Feb. 17, 1798. Of possibly 18-20 survivors, 6 are Unc., 3 mutilated, others VF to AU.. Various states of die breakage. Newlin, Garrett; Elisaberg was AU/Unc., Stanley Kesselman. See detailed known survivors in Bib. below: WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:2053. VIMP.



Pencil p.22: Line 1: Earle 2292 ef. Woodin 1188 vf. D.S. Wilson f. Gable f.

Last line: Earle 2293 ef. Woodin 1189 with arrow pointing to Parmelee 756 & a ? mark. Stickney 616.

JCM#311, 10/18/33:230 "1798 Extremely fine. Very rare. *Illustrated.*" \$150.00.

See Important sale catalogs below for a 4 star "mutilated".

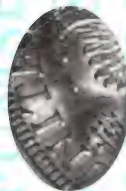
NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796: 9+4 'U'.

As stated earlier (see quarter eagle, half eagle) Scot copied the heraldic eagle device from the Great Seal of the United States (1782), though on all device punches of this design he committed the heraldic blunder (or piece of saber-rattling bravado?) of placing the warlike arrows in the eagle's dexter claw (its own right, observers left), outranking the olive branch for peace in the sinister claw. On the actual Great Seal (as copied on the backs of current dollar bills) this blunder does not occur. Patterson & Dougall cite evidence that Scot engraved the Great Seal. They even quote the engraver Alexander Lawson (1773-1846): "He [Scot] had no knowledge of animals or figures," & add that this "harshly critical commentary[...]is consistent with the scrawny, odd-shaped eagle of the Great Seal die of 1782." {1978}, pp. 115-19.

If the conjectured & reconstructed mintage figures of the previous section are correct, then eagle coinage of the new design must have begun with [10,840] between June 5, 1797, & Jan. 30, 1798. These coins have only 13 reverse stars, evidently immediately following Mint Director Boudinot's decision to stop adding a new star for every new state admitted to the Union. See heraldic eagle reverse: quarter eagle, half eagle text. Their single obverse has 16 stars divided  $10 + 6$ , evidently completed before that decision. Possibly 2 % survive (C.R. 2), mostly VF to EF.

Remember: 1797-1804, two of the three reverses have "cross" star arrangement (stars are in intersecting straight lines forming diamond-shaped patterns), as described in the introductory texts just cited; the third has the "arc" arrangement: a row of 6 paralleling clouds, a row of 5 under them, & the 12th & 13th flanking beak & neck. The "cross" revs. are probably the earliest completed by whichever assistant or apprentice worked in 1798-99; if later research in pay records locates his name & inclusive dates, we may be able to deduce time of manufacture & use of these dies, & more accurate mintage figures.





No crack rim L hair, or R to brow. No crack UNITED.

Color has L, no R.



Ill. is 1798/7 Breen 1-A [now 2-A], A-1, C-1.

HE. Feb. 28, 1798. Of 13 survivors, 5 are at least borderline Unc. (today's ms 64 or less, see numerical grading in Glossary). One survivor has loop removed (see ms. '47 ANA), the remainder VF to AU, usually weak in centers. See above ms. for some of the various die breaks. Newlin, Garrett was AU.; Rutherford, Clapp, Eliasberg was EF/AU, M. Brownlee.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:272 "[...]four stars to right[...]U'[...]No finer exists." Rev. A 1798 is earlier state Rev. D 1797 (found in 1989 notes).

Feb. 17, 1798. Stars 9+4. HB 1-A.

Mint, S.I., 17.479 grs.. Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I., 17.493 grs. \_.

KS 4/3-4/59:2687 "1798 over 97. 9 Stars left, 4 right. [...]sharply struck[...]Ef' [...]." Plate.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1816 '4\*' WB: "mutilated".

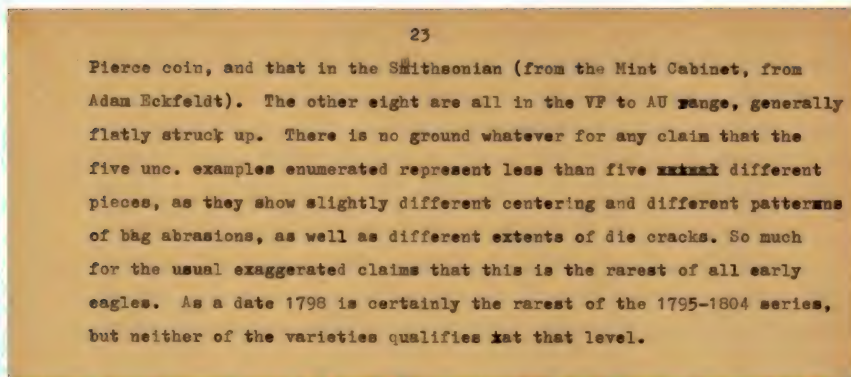
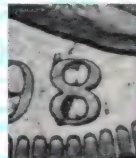




Note crack star 7 to cap, defect below star 1.

WB corrected Ency. {1988} 6837 annot.: 1798/7 Stars 7+6 [842] to Breen 2-A from 1-A. HB 2-A. D-G:910, N:2138. Mint, S.I. 17.484 grs. Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I., 17.493 grs..

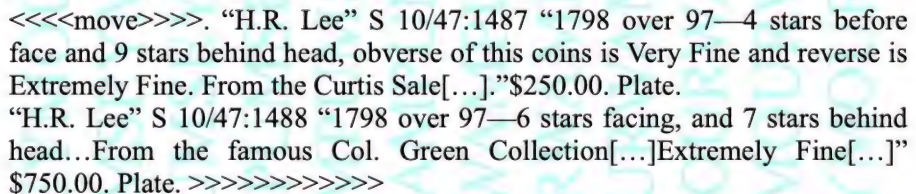
Ill., right, is 1798/7 six stars right. Breen 2-A, A-2, C-2.



See important catalogs below and right for: Mehl 3/1948:273. 1798/97, 'described'.

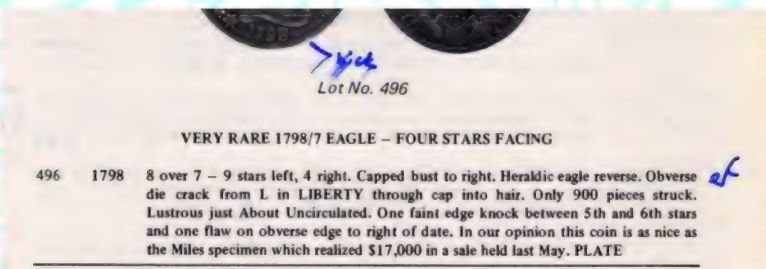
BMM "Farouk" 3/23/48:272"[...]over-date[...]four stars to right of bust and nine[...]." 273.

WB's copy: BMM A.Carter 10/55:273 "[...]six stars to right[...]U'[...]."  
Below.

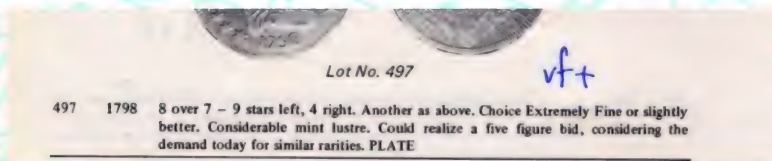


Page 66 of 195

See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below.

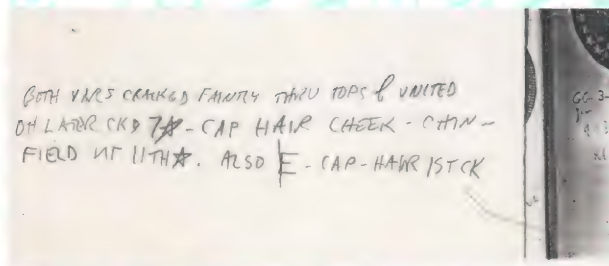


WB's annot. K 1/75:496 above; 497 below.



WB's annot. E Adams CCJ VIN2 1798 below.

Indistinct writing enhanced to left.



Above is enlarged BV annot. to read 2 below.



left of head almost in form of an angle. Woodin 1186. C 4

1st  
(faded)

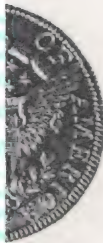


the bust;  
the lower  
the final  
the bust.  
almost  
under  
left foot  
C 2

There are two varieties of 1798, both struck over 1797.

44  
xf  
120

E1—Obverse four stars before bust; nine behind. Struck over 1797. Die crack through L of LIBERTY. Rev.—Same as No. 4 of 1797. Woodin 1188. later, old R. English. C 1



through  
v.—Star  
and two  
of beak.  
in E and  
downward  
Woodin  
C 3

E2—Obverse six stars before bust; seven behind. Struck over 1797. Little die defect near the last star, close to the bust. Rev.—Seems to be the same as foregoing. This is the rarest of the eagles, and a fine specimen brought \$410 at the Woodin sale. Woodin 1189. C 2

446  
xf  
200

33

NE pt. all the way  
of the old R. English  
from the old R. English

Lower right see BV annot. above.

Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

pendant.  
1796.  
1-A 1 1 445 xf120 Stars 9 & 4. Later, ckd. up. of E-field--brow--first ck.  
2-A 2 2 446 xf200 Stars 7 & 6. Later, ckd. 7th s--cap, hair, cheek, chin, field  
near 11th s; also E--cap--hair--1st crack.

Above RITA B&W copy is better quality than original.

<<<<<<<<<Disappearance in computer upgrade.>>>>>>>>

1799



Ill. is Breen 5-G.

Do not confuse with 2 former small stars obsv., this: All stars crowded together, stars 8 & 13 distinctly rotated.  
About 25 of the mintage survive, including many Uncs..

1799

Mintage reported as 17,483. To this must be added a large number  
--my tentative reconstruction is 19,966--struck in 1800 from dies dated  
1799. Deliveries in 1799:

Warrant	Date	Eagles
136	May 14	7582
138	June 1	143
147	Dec. 17	5950
148	Dec. 20	3790
149	Dec. 28	18

Assuming that the 1.8% C.R. continues through this date, we would  
expect a population of less than 320 of all nine varieties. There are  
more than that of the common Large Stars coin alone (my 5-G, Adams 1),  
and probably not far from that number of specimens of the common Irregular  
Date variety (my 4-E, Adams 5). These, together with the usually seen  
variety of 1801, are the commonest of the early eagles and represent the  
vast majority of specimens of this design in collectors' and dealers'  
hands, well outnumbering all other dates put together. Possibly the  
true population of 1799 is between 700 and 800 and that of 1801 slightly  
higher. I assume that the number of 1799's struck in 1800 is 19,966  
as this includes all but the final isolated November deliveries and the  
sum so obtained (37,449) fits both the C.R. data, for the ap-



parent total population and for the population obtained by summing the apparent population of each variety (not over 30 for E-6's, not over 75 for E-5's, etc.); moreover, it provides the correct ratios to all previous dates as well as to 1800 and 1801. The 1800 mintage itself is an enigma, consisting as it does of a single variety, moderately rare, found only with broken obverse die and employing a reverse used on the last and commonest of the 1799's and on the first and rarer of the two 1801 varieties. Only by the assumption that the first fourteen deliveries of that year were from dies dated 1799 do we get a correct fit to the data.

From now on obverses have stars 8 + 5. Obvs. 1 to 4 have small stars.  
 B. 1-A. Wide even date, 13th star almost touches drapery. A-8; C-1;  
 N-453.

Obv. 1. Date widely and about evenly spaced, /longest levelock pointing between the two 9's; stars well apart, 5th, 6th and 7th more closely spaced than the others at left, first low and with two points about equally close to bottom of curl, 13th very close to drapery--almost touching it.

and on heavy strikes may touch it.  
 Rev. A. First star barely clear of cloud, / ~~xxxx~~ Berry below center of A (hold coin so that last A in AMERICA is upright). Leaf touches or practically touches right base of I. Bunch of arrows extends to almost right side of N, possibly to right side on heavy impressions. Space between clouds below ~~xxxxx~~ right side of upright of E; a leaf touches or about touches C in AMERICA.

R-8. ~~xxxxGuttagexxxx~~ I describe this variety from the Guttage-Newcomer specimen, represented by photographs; I believe I have seen one other but cannot now place it. If the apparent die crack between IB is actually that and not a planchet defect or scratch on the coin, we may have the reason for the quick discard of this ~~xxxxx~~ obverse; the crack ~~xxx~~ may have developed rapidly.

B. 2-A. Wide date spaced 17 9 9, 8th star almost touches cap. A-4; not in C or N.

B. 1-A see P.T.A. Breen 2 below.

B. 5-F see Artyfact below.

Obv. 2. Rather widely spaced date with 17 close at tops and bases, 79 farther apart, 9's most distant, these digits almost as far apart as in obv. 1. Two points of 8th star equally very close to cap, closer than on any other 1799 die; first star normally placed, rather than low down as in preceding obverse; 5th, 7th and 8th spread apart as are 12th and 13th. Letters in LIBERTY squeezed together as in obv. 1, but base of Y almost touches a star point. (On other dies the adjacent star ~~xxxxxxxx~~ has a point near the upright of Y.) Always seen with some stage of a crack from rim through upper and lower left serifs of L into cap and hair towards center.

Rev. A.

E-7. Known from Woodin 1191, ~~xxx~~ from lot 4022 in the New Netherlands Numisma, vol. 3, no. 3, May 1956, and from a couple of specimens seen in conventions at bourse tables. Probably the obverse break advanced rapidly enough to make the die useless.

E. 3-A. Closest date of the year, space between clouds below upright of E, leaf touches C. A-3; C-5; not in M.

Obv. 13. Quickly recognized by the date, which is very closely and evenly spaced, the 179 almost touching at tops and the 1 nearly touching curl. First two stars apart, remainder nearly ~~xxx~~ or quite touching.

Rev. A. Distinguished from reverses B and C, which share this same obverse, by the space between clouds being below r. side of upright of E; leaf touching C. Now usually with a straight crack from rim to arrow butts.

R-6. Earle 2296; Eliasberg; Gaylord 379 (slightly off center); and several others seen in dealers' bourses at conventions.

E. 3-B. Closest date, berry below ~~right~~ center of right base of A. A-7; not in C or M.

Obv. 3.

Rev. B. First star distant from cloud, 12th from beak, 13th unusually

Obv. 2 crack rim through L to cap.



Breen 5-G.



5-G? Norweb 3/24-5/88 2140, 12 arrows.  
3-B 10 arrow rev. Norweb 2139 3/24-5/88.



Ill. is Breen 3-C, A-2, C-6, N-448.



high above ribbon, space between clouds under a point right of center of base of E, berries smaller than usual (as on reverse E), one of them below center of r. base of A (unlike rev. A or C) which come with this obverse), arrows extend to a point right of center of H base of N, leaf well away from C, leaf does not quite touch right end of base of I. bases of H much closer together than usual.

R-8. I describe this from the Gutttag coin pictured in Adams; no other has as yet shown up.

B. J-C. Closest date, O centered over space between clouds. A-2; C-6; H-448.

Obv. #3. Closest date. Now often cracked from rim through 8th star to cap and through tops of ERTY.

Rev. C. Two points of first star merged in cloud. Northeast points of first 8 stars blunt or partly recut (to correct the shortening of that point, the punch having chipped before any of the reverses of this year were made), southwest points<sup>(only)</sup> of the remaining five short or imperfect. On revs. A and B only the northeast points appear to have been affected, the punch not being laid down and rotated 180° on those as it evidently was on this die. Small spur pointing up and slightly left from<sup>right</sup> top of shield, almost at ~~extreme right~~ corner. Berry about under center of A, bunch of arrows extends to a point r. of center of N, leaf nearly but not quite touching C, leaf merges in base of A just r. of center, space between two clouds under a point r. of center of base of E, space between two clouds under center of O (it is usually below right curve).

R-6, possibly high R-5. The Eliasberg coin, Mex Harle 2295, is pictured in Adams; WGC 633; Baldenhofer 1444 and several others.

Newcomer lists two other varieties belonging with this group which have never been ~~identified~~ <sup>seen since</sup> and which may be misidentifications. H-449 is supposed to be a ~~mis~~ muling of obverse 4, to be described below, with reverse C. H-452 is supposed to be a muling ~~of~~ of obv. 2 with reverse E, to be described below. This may just possibly have been a mistaken

description of J-B (Adams 7).

B. 4-D. "Irregular Date", very short stem pointing to tail above its end. A-6; C-2; NY-451.

Obv. 4. The "Irregular Date": 1 very low in field, very distant from curl; 7 higher; first 9 too low, second 9 high, almost or quite touching drapery. <sup>All ~~xxxx~~ numerals lean well to right.</sup> There are many other distinctive features about this obverse but the date affords instant recognition from about as far away as the last digit can be read.

Rev. D. Twelfth star free of beak, bunch of arrows extend only to left upright of N (distinctive), stem exceptionally short and points to tail well above lower end, berry under right serif of right foot of A. Jagged die defect within C of AMERICA; crack from rim through top of M, through center of E to base of R.

R-7. The Earle coin pictured in Adams, and a VF one listed in Numisma, May 1956, no. 4022, are the basis for this description. Possibly others are around, mistaken for the common ~~m~~ 4-E. The die break undoubtedly accounts for the rarity of the variety.

B. 4-E. "Irregular Date", longer stem pointing to border. A-5; C-3; N-450.

Obv. 4. The "~~xxx~~ Irregular Date", now often though not always with rim crumbling over 7th star, later with more advanced crumbling over 7th and 8th stars, then over first two stars. A crack develops from rim through E upright of E to ~~xxx~~ top of forelock. Another crack develops through tops of TY and outer points of five stars at right. This later (Gaylord 375) extends through tops of all letters in LIBERTY. Another crack extends ~~xxxxx~~ from rim to cap and branches left to connect all stars at left. The rim crumbling becomes heavy. This die was evidently used until it could no longer strike eagles; apparently no other ~~xxxx~~ obverse dies were then ready.

Rev. E. Very small berries, one of them over left serif of right

## Equivalents

1799 [all kinds 37,449] Stars 8 + 5.

HB: 3B lump denticle above U.

—3C: Lump in shield above tail feathers; (A) Rust pits between UN @ N C A; leaf touches at center of base of I.

—3A: As 3C but no lump?, does it fade?. Compare rev. 1799 Small stars, wide date.

ency 6839 1799 Small stars, wide date. Breen 1-A

HB: X-A: Crack rim -48-field; rim -L-cap to temple. Center L

see Artyfact.



—2-A: T has dot touching cross-bar directly above upright; later crack rim to cap on left side of L touching serifs, not through upright. See Obv. 2, rev. A below.

—1-A: Repunched base of T. WB II:201 (6/1975).

—4D = Breen 4-D. 1799 Small stars, irregular date. Jagged die defect within C(A), 1 very far from curl, first 9 below 7 9.

—4B = Breen 4-E.

—5F = 5-F 1799 Large obv. stars. Gary Parietti, FUN, Unc., “Botate” ex. NERCG (Typhins [sic]).

—5G = 5-G.

Updated description from pieces seen after 1955, various sources:

1799 with stars 8+5 (henceforth) is one of the most often seen of this design, the other being 1801. Of the 5 obvs. & 7 revs. in 10 combinations, two are plentiful: (B4-E & B5-G sm. stars & lg. stars), forming the majority of survivors of this date. With the 1801, they comprise the majority of the design.

Some of these reverses 1799-1803 may be half-dollar dies.

1799 Stars 8+5 Small Stars, wide date. Ex. rare. Breen 1-A. & new obv.; latter LM 2/1972:433 & Breen II:201. Berry below center of final A. Hold coin so that this A is upright. Space between clouds left of center of E; rust pit between UN.

Breen 4-D, 4-E, price for latter. 4-D, ex. rare, has jagged die defect within C(A). Note date configuration: 1 very far from curl, first 9 below 7 9.



Following Breen 5-F, 5-G vars., Large Stars continue through 1804. Caution!: First 4 vars. Small obv. stars; remainder Large Stars.

1799 Large obv. Stars. Breen 5-F, 5-G. Price for 5-G. 5-F has berry beyond right tip of right foot of final A. Hold coin so that this final A is upright. Corner of F about touches border. 5-G: Usually weak stars 1-3, & rev. wingtip ST(A).



B&W: B.4-D.



Color: 3-A.

4-E. See Bib. below for NN #47:1425 described by WB in his annot. copy. B 4-E = A-5.

foot of A. RI well apart, base of ~~xxxx~~ second T in STATES low, ES lean to right, 13th star high above ribbon, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ bunch of arrows extend to right of center of base of H, otherwise very similar to rev. D. Without the jagged die defect in C; crack develops from rim to third feather from end of wing at left.

R-3. This is one of the two commonest 1799 eagles, and one of the three commonest of the Early Dates (1795-1804). At least fifteen or twenty uncirculated pieces are around, e.g. Pierce 1437, Gaylord 375, "Memorable" 536, 1964 AMA Convention Sale, lot 2967, etc. If an uncirculated 1799 is offered, it is almost certain to be either a 4-E or a 5-G (large stars) coin. Not impossibly approaches the R-2 level.

All coins to follow through 1804 have large obverse stars.

E. 5-F. Large stars, berry beyond r. base of final A. A-9; not in C; N-454.

Obv. 5. The most distinctive of the 1799's. Stars very much larger than on any previous eagles, and crowded together; 8th and 13th out of line, closer to border than the rest. Date closely spaced with 9 9 apart, and looks heavier than on preceding dies, apparently new punches for the 1 and 9 being put into use.

Rev. F. The only description I have for this die (from Adams) says merely that the berry ~~is~~ below A is placed exceptionally far to right, beyond right tip of right foot of A. This feature would afford immediate identification.

E-3, unlocated. The only one Adams knew was the Guttag-Newcomer coin, only Fine and even then selling at \$100 which was many times the going rate for 1799's in that grade. Collectors with the common large star type of 1799 are advised to look closely at the reverses of their coins, as more may be in hiding.

B. 5-G. Large stars, berry centrally under right foot of A. A-1; C-4; N-447.

Obv. 5. ~~The die with~~ Large Stars. The ~~die~~ die gradually wears down but no signs of breakage are known.

Rev. G. Berry centrally under right foot of A. Northeast points of all stars blunt, as on some earlier reverses. Arrows extend ~~to~~ almost to right upright of N. D slightly high. EI almost touch. Leaf well away from C; ~~leaf~~ leaf touches I under right edge of upright. Space between clouds under center of E or slightly left. Sixth star touches clouds, others free. Beak shuts down on 12th star. Perfect and with faint cracks through ~~top~~ <sup>leaf</sup> of UNI and from rim to tail, branch and R; coins with both cracks are seldom seen. This reverse was used in 1800 and 1801.

R-2. The commonest of the 1799's. Available in any grade desired; several dozen uncirculated ones are around, several of them moderately prooflike. (Compare, for instance, Davis-Graves 911, Baldenhofer 1442-43, Wolfson 623, Bell II 306, lot 228 of New Netherlands 49th sale, WGC 634, lots 685-686 of New Netherlands 54th sale (latter slightly double struck), lot 355 of Lester Merkin's November 1965 sale, etc., etc.) I suspect, but cannot prove, that this one variety represents the ~~the~~ greatest part of the 19,966 struck in 1800 from 1799 dies. It is certainly the last of the 1799's and the latest ones (by the state of the reverse die) must have been struck at about the same time as the small number of 1800's, or at worst not long before.

1799



EAGLE. Regular dies trial piece. Reverse defaced by deep chisel marks.

26. Copper—R.E. (A-W 19) Unique. \$3500.00.

(A note under lot 15 in the Parmelee catalogue of June 1890 states "purchased in the mint.")

Walter Breen's annotated Judd 3rd.



Obv. 3.  
Rev. B.



Obv. 5; rev.G.



See below for close-up.

PCA III "Beck" 2/14/1977:356 \$2,00.00. "[...]About Uncirculated-55[...]identifiable by the die break at E in LIBERTY to top of curl and die breaks over 7th and 8th stars and below first two stars[...]" Plate. —:357: \$2,500.00."[...]About Uncirculated-50[...]Reverse-variety with beak of eagle clamped onto 12th star. 3rd and 4th stars weakly struck. Obverse-minor scuff on nose[...]" Plate. —:358 \$2,500.00 "[...]About Uncirculated-50[...]Faint edge bruise over 1st and 7th stars. Tiny edge nick to right of date and a few dim scratches on cheek[...]" Plate. —:359: \$1,800.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-45. Close date, small stars. Die break below two stars of [sic] left. Many faint handling marks and nicks in field and few pinpoint edge nicks[...]" Plate. —:360 \$1,900.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-40 "[...]rubs and abrasions in field and faint tiny scratches on cheek. Ex-H.Chapman, Jr[...]" Plate. —:361 \$1,350.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-40[...]fields show evidence of brush marks to remove or cover all nicks and scratches[...]" Plate. —:362 \$1,300.00. "[...]Very Fine-20. Small stars, evenly spaced date. Tiny nick in beading over I in LIBERTY, nick in edge over A in STATES and a rim bruise over RI in AMERICA[...]" Plate.



Obv. 2; rev. A.





B. 4-E. Early die state.

Rim above star 7 crumbling faint. Crack E to forelock faint. For “[...]very early die state[...].” see WB’s G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:2055; B-4E “[...]latest die state known[...].” See WB’s copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:2054 in Bib. below. EXIMP descriptions.



Obv. 5 close-up, note star 8 & 13 point alignment. 1 (new) 7 9 9 (9’s new).



4-E.

Crack rim E forelock faint. Berry left, R I apart. Base T low ES leans right, star 13 high.



Jerry Bille lot: 1799 J.F. & "VF20" 91  
 "ex Barmule?" - see Del Nord p. 100. 89  
 & 1799 B. SF \$10 (still RT). u-  
 orig. w/ H. rim 229/

T 1828 \$5 (1st & d. hnd) ex Aug '88  
 ? "ex John Bille" - auction hist. 22.8  
 ex P? cert. f. Gary Paricetti + cap  
 \$16.483.6356. [287] W. Hampstead  
 Li My 11552

1799 B. SF: cent. ? p. 100. #10  
 minute rim width; above TY; hnd 1-2  
 of shallow rim dent = ex, 1982  
 7-8 = 1982  
 Rose Coin falling  
 (? just v. NERCE). They [unclear] v. [unclear]  
 tried me start to - hnd - 1/10 hnd!  
 + 10 - 5

NB 91:89 above. Die B. 5-F Artyfact.

See Important Sale Catalogs below for JCM 278th sale: Large stars Unc., frosty mint lustre, lot 165, 421.00. & Small stars, lot 166, ExF, \$17.00.

Breen noted in his annot. copy The United States Gold Coin Collection B&R 10/27-9/1982 many of the photographs are incorrect or transposed(X): 643 (B-4B), 644, 645 (rev. A), 651X653, others. Accompanying book USGC: An Illustrated History QDB ditto, WB was so disappointed his presentation copy remained unread.



617 1799 Small stars, Breen & Co. (A). The obverse is regular date variety.  
 Silver Brilliant Uncirculated. 145-65, possible. A

618 1799 Small stars, Breen & Co. (A). The reverse is regular date variety.  
 Silver Brilliant Uncirculated. 145-65, possible. A



619 1799 Small stars, Breen & Co. (A). The obverse is regular date variety.  
 Silver Brilliant Uncirculated. 145-65, possible. A

620 1799 Small stars, Breen & Co. (A). The reverse is regular date variety.  
 Silver Brilliant Uncirculated. 145-65, possible. A

NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796: Six pieces, 5 'U'.

BMM "Farouk" 3/23/48:274, 275.

J.C.M. #305 4/1933:399 [Unc. \$20.00] See scan Important Sale Catalogues below.

KS 4/3-4/59:2688 "Strictly Ver Fine. Light handling marks in field. ..." WB in pencil: "nicked up".

DNV 1799. Irregular Date. Breen 4-E. Brilliant and sharp but with a few too many light bag marks to qualify as Unc. Naked eye type coin, identifiable from as far away as the date can be read. Early die state, before the cracks and rim breaks developed. B0037.

DNV 1799. Large stars. Breen 5-G, rev. of 1800. Sharpness of AU, surfaces granular from reworking, probably to remove scratches. Has ANACS papers. B0038.

DNV 1799. Large stars. Same dies. Obv. VG, rev. nearer to Fine, smooth as glass, no problems. Probably someone's pocket piece. Very unusual so. B0039.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:274 "1799 So-called large stars on obverse. Extremely fine, nearly uncirculated."

WB's annot. K 1/75: below.

499	1799	Choice Uncirculated. Very attractive smooth surfaces and pale orange toning. <del>Faint</del> nick on edge over I in UNITED and first T in STATES. <b>D4E</b> ✓
500	1799	Brilliant Uncirculated. Shades of light and bright orange-yellow tones. Variety with faint die break through cloud and final S in STATES, from rim through MERI, CA. Lovely surfaces with hardly any bag marks usually found on these large coins. <b>D4D R7</b> ✓
501	1799	Choice Uncirculated, struck in pale yellow gold. Faintest trace of rubbing on high points of coin. Variety with third star in first row weak struck on reverse. Very pleasing appearance. <b>B5G</b>
502	1799	Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale yellow frosty gold specimen. Another lovely coin from this great holding. Few minor handling marks but we doubt if you will see any much nicer. A valuable coin. <b>D4E similar above</b> ✓

# 1799-1800 EAGLES

- |       |      |  |              |
|-------|------|--|--------------|
| (503) | 1799 | Borderline Uncirculated. Very sharply struck. Variety with die crack from rim to tips of eighth star to back of cap. Few other faint die cracks on obverse. Very scarce type coin.   | ✓<br>B3B R7  |
| 504   | 1799 | Brilliant About Uncirculated. Minor contact marks in field and some rubs on high points. Reverse almost prooflike surfaces and quite sharply struck.   | ~<br>D4E     |
| (505) | 1799 | Brilliant About Uncirculated. Nice pale yellow gold with attractive surfaces. Very faint adjustment marks on lower segment of shield. Some prooflike surface on reverse. Just a thin shade from being choice Uncirculated. | ✓<br>B5F, R8 |
| 506   | 1799 | Brilliant About Uncirculated. Traces of recutting on last 9. Well centered and very pleasing in every respect. Worth a very high bid.  | B5G short AU |
| 507   | 1799 | Choice About Uncirculated. Large star variety. Considerable mint luster.   | ~<br>B3A R5  |
| 508   | 1799 | The last of the illustrious eleven. Choice About Uncirculated. Beautiful clean surfaces struck in bright yellow gold.  | B5G ~        |

Compare Harry Bass Collection below

See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below; same sale as last.

OC ANA 1952:597 'BU' 102 1/2 sold to Coal; —:598 'EF' 80 sold to Acorn.

See WB's copy in Bib. below.

Elder 10/1908:4 Nearly fine. \$17.50 Worth.

Pattern, Exp. & Trial: Fewsmith 10/1870:1142 Eagle, copper rev. canceled, \$2.00 to Ramsey.



# WB's annot. E Adams CCJ 1799 E VIN3.

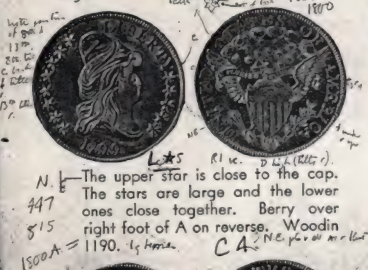
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The Coin Collector's Journal

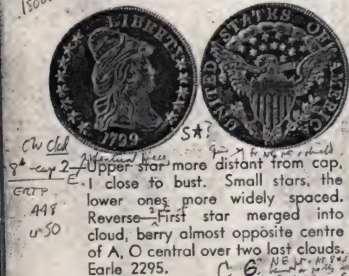
## Early United States Gold Coins EAGLES—Continued

By  
EDGAR H. ADAMS

There are nine varieties of the 1799 eagle:



N. 1190  
447  
815  
1800A = 1190. 1/2 horse.  
The upper star is close to the cap. The stars are large and the lower ones close together. Berry over right foot of A on reverse. Woodin 1190. 1/2 horse.



Upper star more distant from cap. I close to bust. Small stars, the lower ones more widely spaced. Reverse—First star merged into cloud, berry almost opposite centre of A, O central over two last clouds. Earle 2295.



E3—Same obverse as No. 2. Reverse—First star clear of cloud, E centered over two clouds. Earle 2296.



Upper left star close to cap. I further from bust, slight die crack left of L. Reverse—Same as No. 3. Woodin 1191.



Star and I distant from point of N bust, small stars. Reverse—Star 450 further from eagle's beak, very small berries, one over right foot of A. Woodin 1192.



6—Same obverse as No. 5. Reverse—Small berry a little left of right foot of A. Star points between B and U, another directly at U in UNUM. Die crack between M and E in AMERICA, and defect at C. Earle.



June, 1934



S\*



S\*




7—Same obverse as No. 3. Reverse—  
Small berries; one over right foot  
of A. Star further from beak.  
Guttat.

8—Similar to preceding but lower left 453  
star further below curl. Same re-verse as No. 3. Guttat. C. 100  
9—Similar obverse to No. 1. Reverse 454  
—Berry to right of right foot of A. f. 100  
Guttat.

WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:201 B.1-A below.

FINEST OF ONLY 2 KNOWN  
OF  
THE EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1799 WIDEST DATE, BREEN  
1-A



201    **1799. Small stars, widest date. B. 1-A. (R-8).** About Unc., scattered minute bag marks, sharp strike; faint rev. adjustment marks at top and very center; pre-striking planchet chip behind cap. **Of the highest rarity; finer of only two reported,** the other the merely VF Guttag-Newcomer coin, pictured in Adams (1934). **One of the most important rarities in the Eagle series. (Photo)**

Obv. Numerals widely and evenly spaced. First star presents two points about equally distant from curl-as far away as is the 1. Differs from obv. 2 in having much wider date, 17 farther apart, 8th star away from cap; differs from the new obv. (lot 433, Merkin 2/72 sale) in the pattern of die breaks (the latter has breaks from rim to 8th star towards cap, heavily down through field, and from rim through L to cap, reaching cap below r. serif of L) and in position of 13th star, which is not so near drapery as on the new die. Rev. Small rust pit between UN. Heavy cracks; rim towards a point in field midway between 8th star and cap; rim to left serifs of L to cap below left tip of L; from near top of cap about vertically down through cap into hair; from rim between IB down through left base of B and field, pointing almost to forelock.

202    **1799. B. 4-E.** "Irregular Date", long stem pointing at

Also P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:202 B.4-E; —:203 B.4-E; —:204 B.4-E see Bib. below for descriptions



Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

1799.  
 Order not determinable as yet, because A-9 not verified as to whether its obv. is A-1 or not.  
 The rev. of A-1 is same as 1800 Rev. A.  
 A-3 preceded A-2.  
 A-6 preceded A-5.  
 Unlisted: N449 u60 is obv. A-1, rev. A-2.  
 N452 x150 is obv. A-2, rev. A-5.  
 What can be pieced together of the order seems to be as follows:  
 A-2, 3, 4 First group. (Small stars.) Lastly A-1. (Large stars.)  
 7, 2 (and 4/3) (A-5, 51) A-9. . . . and..../  
 then 2/5. (second group)  
 A G N (plus the above unlisted, which are not in Clapp either)  
 1 L 147 g 15  
 2 6 148 u 50  
 3 5  
 4 1  
 5 3 150 u 60  
 6 2 151 u 60  
 7 -  
 8 1 153 v1 100  
 9 - 154 r 100  
 1800. Only one obv. Rev. is same as 1799 A-1; develops impressed denticles over STAT, old edge-tail-branch-R and near bases of UNI.

NEAR (Plate)

575.00

959. 1799 \$10.00 Gold Eagle - About A.U. But with a few light nicks and minor handling marks which do not detract from this choice coin - Should realize near

200.00

WB's annot. 1959 ANA above.

1800

[5,999+]

1800		
Mintage reported as 25,965, in sixteen deliveries as detailed below; I have given some reasons <del>gax</del> for believing that only the last two con- tained coins dated 1800. Deliveries:		
Warrant	Date	Egles
156	April 16	1700
157	<del>April 21</del>	464



Ill. is Breen 1-A, A-1, C-1.  
[See also P bk. ms.].

The single variety dated 1800 is believed to comprise only the [5,999] of Nov. 18-25 1800 is rare, especially in mint state; the limited mintage is doubtless relevant to early breakage of obv. die. Rev. = 1799 5-G. Later Breen found: Some struck in 1801, after B-1A, therefore [5,999+].

Nov. 18-25, 1800, Warrants 183-4. Obv. corrected to: Almost always with die breaks through LIBERTY & stars.

Taylor, Garrett was AU.; Mills, Clapp, Eliasberg was AU. Very rare Unc..

160	May <del>23</del>	2537
161	May 24	2021
162	May 26	339
163	May 29	471
164	June 7	60
165	June 12	6
168	June 30	939
169	July 1	3010
170	July 8	833
171	July 15	2343
172	July 26	2247
1734	Sept. 4	2996
183	Nov. <del>1</del> 18	3754
184	Nov. 25	2245

The two final deliveries total 5999. Assuming that the 1.8% C.R. remains valid for this year as for previous ones, the approximate population of 100 to 110 specimens of this date (actually a slightly liberal estimate) fits an original mintage of in the neighborhood of 6000, as expected; if the Sept. 4 delivery of 2996 eagles also consisted of coins dated 1800, we would expect ~~some~~ nearly ~~seventy~~ two hundred specimens to survive at that C.R., and the coin is simply not as common as that. It is nearly R-5 if not actually within that level. Only one pair of dies was used and apparently ~~may~~ all specimens known show extensive breakage. The dies cannot have stood up for a very large mintage.

B. 1-A. Wide date, break through LIBERTY. A-1; C-1; N-455.

Obv. 1. Large stars as in obv. 5 of 1799, 8th this time placed too low ~~ix~~ rather than too high, close to cap. Date widely spaced with 1 well to left under curl. ~~Strike~~ Always with break through tops of LIBERTY, this break unusually strong.

Rev. A. Same as 1799 rev. G, and cracked the same.

R-4, high, near the border of R-5 and not impossibly a full R-5. A



greatly underrated coin; not a great deal more often seen than 1796.



Ill. is Obv. 1. Rev. A.

Possibly 2% or slightly less survive in all grades (C.R. 1.8%).

PP: Possibly! Only the one variety: Earliest die state, crack through various letters in LIBERTY faint. Breen was shown 2 & had been told of several others that qualify as possible pp's. Argument against the existence is the reason for the strikings, & when.

Equivalents:  
HB 1A.

See important catalogs below for JCM 278th sale lot 167, \$18.25.

PCA III "Beck" 2/14/77:363 \$2,300.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-45[...]with the customary die break at LIBERTY[...]" Plate. —:364 \$1,800.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-40. Wide date, die break thru top of LIBERTY. Fields show rubs and abrasions and light nicks. Edge knock on reverse over RI[...] Plate. —:365 \$1,450.00. "[...]Very Fine-35 plus. The die breaks at LIBERTY are just beginning to show. Few faults..tiny "V" scratch in front of L, edge nick in front of L and the usual nicks in field. Reverse-edge bruise over last S in STATES and a few scattered pinpoint edge nicks. Ex-H. Chapman[...]" Plate. —:366 \$1,500.00. "[...]VF-30. Die crack at LIBERTY and small die lump over 11th star[...]" Plate.  
 NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796: 'U'.  
 BMM "Farouk" 3/23/48:276, 277.

DNV 1800. Breen 1-A. EF, many minute bag marks, rev. more lustrous than obv[.] but has rim dents above M and RI. Much rarer than 1799, 1801 or 1803. B0040.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:275 'U'.  
 Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

		Lot No. 509	
509	1800	Brilliant Uncirculated with full mint bloom. Die crack through LIBERTY. Superb appearing reverse with faint die breaks below claw. A pin type diagonal scratch on center obverse hidden in the hair. Rare this choice. PLATE	<i>nicked</i>
510	1800	<del>Choice</del> <i>uncirc</i> Uncirculated with some bag marks in the field. Well centered and well struck. Almost full mint bloom. Very scarce.	<i>✓</i>
511	1800	Choice About Uncirculated in full brilliance. First stars on left flat struck. Pale orange toning. A very desirable type coin.	<i>✓</i>
512	1800	Choice About Uncirculated with considerable mint lustre. Die cracks and extensive clash marks. Field shows much contact with other coins. Ex-Henry Chapman... Cost \$22.50! Rarity 5.	<i>~</i> <i>field chip below and of drop.</i>

WB's annot. K 1/75:509-12 above.  
 See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below, same sale.

See WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:206 in Bib. for die state description.

# E. Adams 1800 Eagle CCJ VIN4 WB annot.

Top page annotated by WB, small writing enlarged on page below. Follow blue line; align purple line.

INNER GENT OVER STATES (t)

The Coin Collector's Journal

## Early United States Gold Coins

### EAGLES—Continued

By EDGAR H. ADAMS

There is only one variety of the 1800 eagle: *WHL* *1800* *R*

E1—Small stars over eagle, wide space between S and O. berry over right foot of A. Woodin 1197. *N 955* *u 50*




*1800* *1803*

E1—The stars are large. A die break connects top of letters in LIBERTY. *Woodin 1194. C1. rev of 1799 A-1*

N 957




*1801* *1805*

E2—Small stars over eagle, narrow space between S and O. Earle 2300. *459 VF 24*

E3—Large stars over eagle, berry over centre of A. Earle 2302. *460 u 50*

There is only one variety of 1801: *C1* *C2=J2*

N 958—Similar stars to 1800. Woodin 1195 and 1196 are listed as two separate varieties but any difference is due to re-cutting of the dies.

N 957 There are five varieties of 1803 all (J2) f with the same obverse die: *last 2\* join*




*1805* *1805*

4—Small stars over eagle, arrow almost touches N. Guttag. *C-1* *461 u 85*

Usually flat on rev. A 4" A 100. *R1* *88* *1800* *1800*



urnal

RI APART AGT AS FAR AS AMER-  
UNITED ON SOME BASE ( )

ace  
ght  
fss  
u so  
x

$t_3F_4$

D VERY HIGH  
ALL LEGEND TO C HIGH

ace  
Defect on  
major 1715  
PE 1715

up - 1715  
over

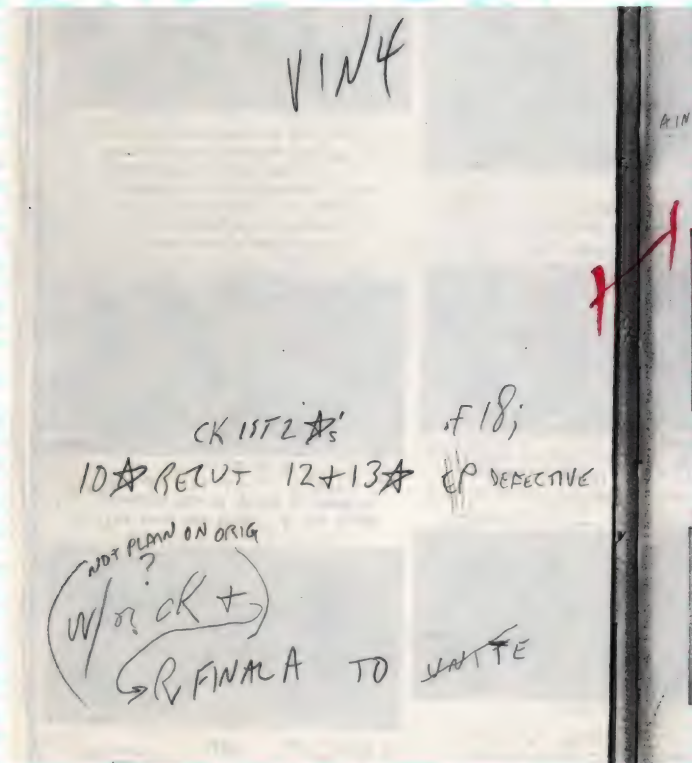
most

→ R COHEN FANT CKS TOP BERTY  
( ) L. CK EDGE-TAIL  
WING

USUALLY FLAT ON (OVS.) + 4TH ~~A~~ R  
AXO'S ( ) : STEAM SMOOTH

NOT PRESENT ON EAGLES HEAD. } F NEAR R.  
★ CLEAR AT DEAR. } CORNER I.





Janis-Breen Checklist ms below.

1800. Only one obv. Rev. is same as 1799 A-1; develops impressed denticles over STAT, old edge-tail-branch-R and near bases of UNI.



1801

Rev. ill. is  
First Ed.



missing due to software upgrade. See

1801		
Mintage reported as 29,254, in sixteen deliveries. To this must be added the <del>XXXXXX</del> 15,090 struck in 1802 from dies of 1801; total <del>XXXXXX</del> 44,344. This is by far the largest coinage of eagles in the early period, and the second variety is possibly the commonest single piece in the series. <del>XX</del> Deliveries:		
Warrant	Date	Eagles
193	Jan. 19	1320
194	Feb. 21	361
195	Jan. 29	37
198	Feb. 23	1840
210	June 4	2931
211	July 21	2994
212	July 21	630
213	Aug. 15	3299
214	Aug. 26	2119
217	Aug. 29	1820
218	Sept. 22	348
220	Oct. 14	4397
221	Oct. 15	2267
222	Oct. 22	4160
223	Oct. 24	619
224	Nov. 4	212
233	Feb. 17, '02	4416
255	Aug. 30	1834
256	Sept. 3	2366
257	Sept. 7	2589
258	Nov. 4	2001
259	Nov. 8	677
265	Dec. 30	1207

This date (2 vars.): one close date, star 8 far from cap B1-A, rev. of 1799-1800 ex. rare; the other (wide date, star 8 very close to cap, rev. of 1803) is commonest of all, 1795-1804.

For long the very existence of ~~xxxxxx~~ more than one variety of 1801 was in ~~xi~~ dispute. Woodin 1195 and 1196 (from the 1911 auction) were listed as two separate varieties. Edgar Adams claimed that they were one and the same. Newcomer finally located a fine specimen (at \$150, or about eight times the going rate for ordinary ones) of the rarer variety. Clapp described it from, apparently, ~~xxxxxx~~ the Newcomer coin. Edward Janis did research involving making excellent photographic enlargements of early eagles during the early 1950's and turned up a couple of specimens of this elusive variety. Since then two others have shown up and a complete description is now for the first time available. Since it proved to have the reverse of ~~220~~ 1799-1800, it is listed first.

B. 1-A. Close date, 10th star far from cap. Not in A; C-2, N-457.

Obv. 1. Date closely spaced, first 1 close to curl. First star low, presenting two points to curl, about equally close. Tenth star quite distant from cap. L about touches cap. Y about touches 1th star. Die file marks show near rim below 80 and at the ~~every~~ top, above cap. All specimens seen show some trace of the following cracks: from rim between 0 and second 1, almost touching both, and later extending into drapery; through top of Y and several adjacent stars.

Rev. A. ~~xxxxxx~~ <sup>same as</sup> 1799 G and 1800 A, and cracked the same--through <sup>left</sup> bases of UNI and from ~~rim~~ through tail, branch and/base of R. There are also additional cracks through tops of NIT and AME.

R-7. The original Newcomer coin was only Fine. One recently turned up by Lester Merkin is ~~xxxx~~ of full original sharpness but cleaned. Ed Schuman showed me a ~~sixth~~ transparency of a third. In addition, there are the two pieces originally discovered by Edward Janis. These are, if memory serves, in the usual grade range--VF to EF. I have been looking at 1801's for over twelve years and have not seen a sixth. The rarity of the variety is easily accounted for, as both dies must have given out rapidly.

Mintage figure [44,344] includes [15,090] delivered in 1802 from 1801 dated dies.

33

B. 2-B. Wide date, 10th star very close to cap. A-1; C-1; N-456.

Obv. 2. Date widely spaced, first 1 practically touching curl well to left of the usual position (on heavy strikes it does touch curl); first star high, presenting only one point to curl and that one at a moderate distance; 10th star presents two points to cap, both very close; L away from cap; Y free of adjacent star. All these points are quite different from their counterparts in obverse 1. Late die states show no cracks but there are several spine-like vertical marks on cap just above ~~the~~ hair, evidently clash marks from vertical stripes of shield.

Rev. B. Wider space than usual between X final S and O. Space between clouds below right serif of E rather than near center. Berry under right tip of right foot of A. Arrows extend right of center of base of M. First T in STATES low, practically resting on a cloud. Leaf near right corner of I. Star clear of beak. M AT too close.

R-2. Plentiful and available in any grade desired. Many of them are in the hands of type collectors who merely want one early eagle of the heraldic ~~type~~ reverse design.

Ms. correction A-1 'Close date, 10th star[...]' should read 8th; line two, sentence 3 says: 'Tenth star quite distant from cap.': it should be 8th star. Obv. 2. also says 10th, correct to 8th.

A survival rate of about 2%, nearly 1,000 are in collector circulation, many Unc..

Warrant numbers unknown. Due to Rev. A die states sequence: 1800 1-A & 1801 1-A; 1801 1-A; 1800 1-A; 1801 1-A. These probably 3 of first 4 of 1801 & a later 1800. Other denominations year-end could apply same.

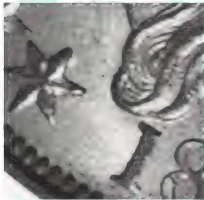
A proof-like is known, if memory serves it is Breen 2-B: obverse Unc. P-L, reverse superb mirror P-L., [it served, see provided ill. below].



Price for Breen 2-B. Breen 1-A much rarer than 2-B, ex. rare, price higher: Auction '82:946, Unc., \$12,500.00. 4 in S.I..



Breen 2-B: Rev. of 1803, this often shows 9 spines in cap.



Ill. is Breen 2-B, A-1, C-1, N-456. See Bib. below for WB's annot. copy NN #47:1426: A-1 = B. 2-B..



Ill. is a PL., Rev. B.

### Equivalents:

HB2B = B-2-B.

—1A = B-1-A.

See important catalogs below for JCM 278th sale lot 168, EF, Light colored gold, \$18.00.

2B: 'ef lg rim dent btw \*'s cntr (pts to edge) 10-11'.

PCA III "Beck" 2/14/77:367 \$1,900.00. "[...]Lustrous Extremely Fine-45. [...]Several spine-like vertical marks on cap just above hair. Rev. Wide space between S and O[...]." Plate. —:368 \$1,650.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-45. Faint scratches in field in front and behind head. Under magnification the scratches look like crude letter B's][rev]with two faint scratches between NITE[...]." Plate. —:369 \$1,100.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-40[...]" The numerous nicks in obverse fields have been burnished and brushed in an effort to make the coin more attractive. Few nicks on cheek[...]." Plate. —:370 \$1,050.00. "[...]Very Fine-30. Wide date[...]." Plate. —:371 \$1,300.00. "Toned Very Fine-30. Edge bruise over RT and nick over E and another on rim to right of date[...]." Plate.

NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796: Two pieces C-1 is 'U'.

BMM "Farouk" 3/23/48:278, 279.

J.C.M. #305 4/1933:400 Unc. \$18.50. See scan Important Sale Catalogues below.

### **Counterfeit.**

A counterfeit 1801 Eagle exists, it is a copper gilt piece.

Pattern, Exp., Trial: Fewsmith 10/1870:1143 copper gilt, \$0.60 Mason.

DNV 1801. Breen 2-B. Rev. of 1803. Brilliant Unc., needle sharp strike, fully prooflike. Light adjustment marks near rims as made; few trivial handling marks. Exceptional quality. One described as choice brought \$39,000 in a Hanks & Associates sale. May 1985. B0041.

DNV 1801. Another, same dies. AU, lustrous, sharp; light field scratches, small field nick above arrows. B0042.


Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

**1801 EAGLES**

---

**A SELECTION OF TEN 1801 EAGLES**

---



Lot No. 513 2B handy

513	1801	Brilliant Uncirculated. Attractive pale orange mint bloom. Wide date variety with clash marks on cap. A very scarce coin in this mint state condition. <b>PLATE</b>
514	1801	Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale yellow gold. Just about qualified to be called "a gem specimen." Same die variety as above. Truly a magnificent coin. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">2B ~</span>
515	1801	Brilliant Uncirculated and very sharply struck. One minor edge bruise over fifth star on left obverse. Clash marks on cap. Pale orange toning. Seldom seen this nice. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">2B</span> <span style="margin-left: 20px;">f/d clud.</span>
516	1801	Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale yellow and orange toning. Variety without clash marks at cap. Very sharp struck and well centered. Truly a lovely specimen worth a high bid. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">2B ~</span>
517	1801	Brilliant Uncirculated. In the fields some friction marks, which do not greatly effect the value or the appearance. Scarce this nice. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">2B</span> <span style="margin-left: 20px;">note</span>
518	1801	Choice About Uncirculated. Minimum of handling marks. Sharp struck. Pale orange toning. No clash marks on cap. Very scarce. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">2B ~</span>
519	1801	Choice About Uncirculated. Struck in yellow gold. Some bag marks and signs of contact with other coins. Quite a bit of mint lustre still adhering. Very much in demand. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">2B ~</span>
520	1801	Choice About Uncirculated. Very pleasing pale orange toning with some mint lustre evident. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">sf-u 2B</span>
521	1801	Choice lustrous Extremely Fine or slightly better. Hardly noticeable adjustment marks through clouds at tip of wing at left. Few old scratches dimly visible on obverse. Trace of proof surface on reverse. Overall an attractive coin. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">2B</span> <span style="margin-left: 20px;">~</span>
522	1801	Sharp Extremely Fine with considerable mint lustre. This is the last of the ten 1801's from the John A. Beck Collection consigned to this auction. Surface shows minimum of wear and bag marks. <span style="margin-left: 50px;">2B ~</span>

---

44 ORDER YOUR PRICE LIST-\$1.00

WB's annot. K 1/75:513-22 above.



See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below, same sale as above.

Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

1801. The first variety, the common one, is A-1; N#56, vf 19. Clapp 1.  
The second, not in Adams, is Clapp 2; N #57 f 150, and supposedly unique.  
Query: Do these constitute the coins made in 1802?

Elder 10/1908:5 Fine, \$13.25 Chapman. —:6 About fine, \$16.50 Worth.

## 1803

Date from half-dollar date punches, "small 3" type, for small rev. stars [8,979]. Ditto large rev. stars [6,038].

B.1-A.



1803

Mintage reported as 8979, in two deliveries:

Warrant	Date	Eagles
---------	------	--------

281	Aug. 19	4816
-----	---------	------

286	Nov. 19	4163
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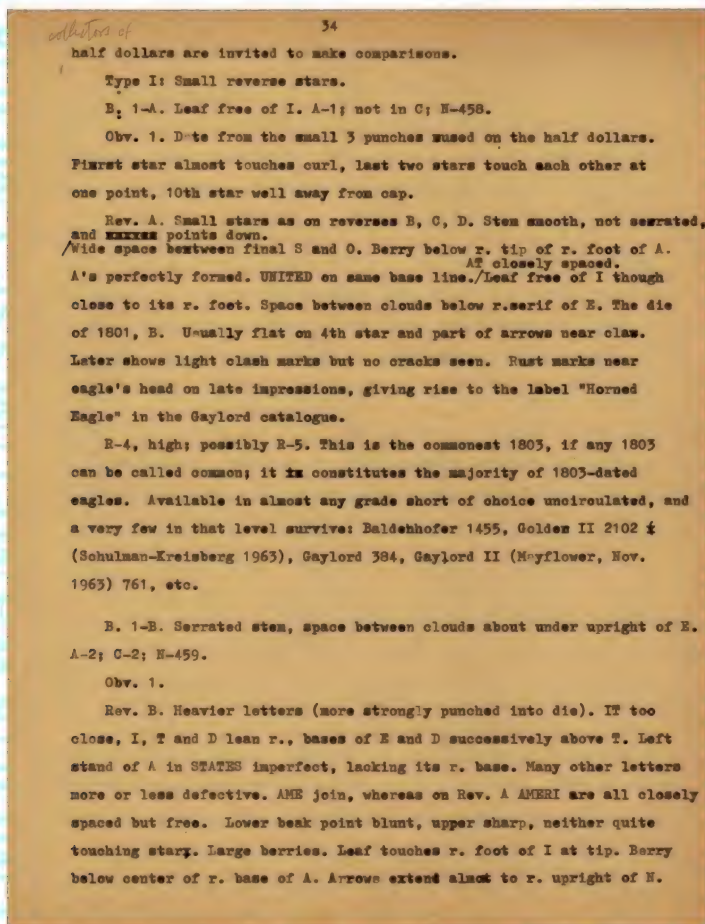
To this must be added an unknown quantity made in 1804 from 1803 dies, possibly the entirety of the first four deliveries. The mintage of this date has the peculiarity shared with the half eagles of 1800xx and 1803 in consisting of a single obverse die muled with a large number of reverses. Distinguishing varieties is easier here, however, as there are large and small star reverses, the large being the later/ and the rarer. The possibility exists that one or more of the ~~reverses~~ <sup>reverses</sup> of this year may be identical to half dollar reverses of 1803 or 1805;

Unlike the half-eagles, but like the half-dollars, these two eagles fall into two naked-eye rev. types: small & large rev. stars, the small as in 1797-1801, large as in 1804. Large stars are as wide as either S(TATE)S. The first of the two large star revs. has traces of a small star within the rightmost cloud; the other die reappears with the single 1804 obv..

Mintage figures given in the ms. above were revised: [8,979] Aug. 19-Oct. 19, 1803 (small stars?) + [6,038] June 1-Dec. 11, 1804 (large stars?).

Less than 2% survived the melting pots.

Pencil annot. below, upper left corner: 'Collectors of' [...].



As in 1801 correct star 10 to star 8 in ms..



Space between clouds below upright of E—the quickest identifying feature. First S and P farther from wings than on reverse A. I First star just free of cloud. Stem in a slight ogival curve, bending down and then at its end curving a little towards tail; its outline is serrated. First A joined by a small break to 4th feather. Often shows clash marks, varying from light to severe, particularly of stars near UNI.

R-6. Compare "Cicero" 67, lot 1656 of New Netherlands 50th sale, and Lahrman 1321. This one is rare.

B. ~~1~~<sup>1</sup> 1-C. D touches wing. Not in A, C or H.

Obv. 1.

Rev. C. (Formerly called "unpublished" and not assigned a letter.) Immediately identified by D touching wing, whereas it is free on the other three small stars reverses. Stem ~~shorter~~ than on ~~reverses~~ other small stars dies, and curves leftwards, pointing to tail. Similar to reverses A and B in other respects, but stem is smooth, letters perfectly formed, crossbars of A in STATES and final A in AMERICA show recutting, beakpoint shows recutting and touches star, berry below extreme r. tip of r. foot of A, arrows extend r. of center of H, leaf touches r. tip of I, space between clouds r. of center of H E, space between clouds r. of center of O rather than under right curve.

R-8. Dr. Sloss collection, ex New Netherlands 54th sale, lot 689, where illustrated. Reverses A and B are pictured in the "Cicero" or NN 55th sale, lots 66 and 67, for easy comparison. Reason for rarity of the variety is unknown. Possibly other specimens exist confused with varieties 1-A and 1-B.

B. 1-D. Arrowhead almost touches H. A-4; C-1; H-461.

Obv. 1.

Rev. D. (Formerly called "C".) Immediately identified by an arrowhead almost touching right ~~hand~~ upright of H. The bunch of arrows extends beyond H and under I. First S in STATES rests on a cloud. In other respects similar to rev. A.

R-6. Only one mint state piece is located—Pierced 1440, from the Col. Green collection. This was probably the Newcomer piece. Malish's was VF, lot 231 of New Netherlands 49th sale better than EF, and a few others have been seen, but the variety remains very rare.

Type II. Large reverse stars, as in 1804. Large stars are at least as wide as either S in STATES, whereas small stars are not much more than half so wide.

B. 1-E. Leaf point below left upright of I. A-3; not in C; H-460.

Obv. 1. Now sometimes shows a faint crack through tops of BERTY; later, this crack is more plain and there are clash marks from eagle's tail around L.

(Formerly "D".)

Rev. E./Berry under center of A. Leaf point about under left upright of I, almost or quite touching on heavy strikes. Arrows extend only a little beyond center of base of H. Space between clouds about under r. edge of upright of E. Later, cracked from rim through tail to base point of shield and up to wing at right. *Other cracks.*

R-6, high. The Earle-Newcomer piece appears to be the only uncirculated one reported. WGC 638 was EF, and very few others have been seen at all. Not impossible a full R-7.

B. 1-F. Leaf point between RI. A-5; C-3; H-462.

Obv. 1. Cracked as described above, and with the clash marks.

Rev. F. (Formerly "E".) Berry slightly left of center of A. Leaf point between RI, touching the P. Arrows extend almost to right side of H. Space between clouds a little r. of center of base of E. A in STATES corrected from an imperfect punch, both other A's lack inner serif of right foot. The die of 1804, and apparently struck in 1804.

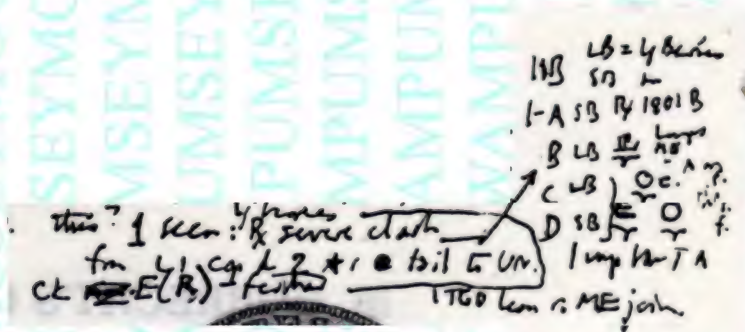
R-7. I have seen only three, counting the Guttag-Newcomer piece as represented in photographs, and cannot now trace those. Probably others are around, but the coin is unlikely to be R-6.

Pencil annot. in Rev. E [...] 'other cracks. Note 14th \* small! in r. cloud (Discovered by Harry W. Bass, of Dallas.) It fades out or else is invisible on worn ones. WB: Missmade." This is B. 1-E, Adams 3, large rev. stars.

Pencil annot. Rev. E.: ms.[...]wing at right. Other cracks. Note 14th \* small! in right clouds (Discovered by Harry W. Bass of Dallas) It fades out or else is invisible or worn down.

See Bib. below for WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:2056 B.1-A. 'BbU'.

Elder 10/1908:7 Large stars. Fine. Plate. \$20.00 Jackman.



WB annot. 1803 Small rev. stars [8,979]: this? 1 seen: rev. severe clash\_ (B LB) from LI cap & 2 \*'s @ tail to UN. Crack E(R)-feather.

HB LB = Large Berries.

SE = Small Berries.

1-A SB rev. 1801B.

1B LB (Artyfact position above clouds) lumps below ME(RI).

1C LB (Artyfact position of O above clouds) Lumps? [ME]. f(eather).

1D SB (Artyfact position of E above clouds) O above clouds. lump between TA. f(eather).

ITED leans right ME join.

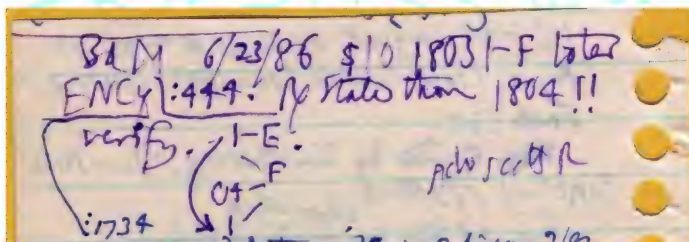




Ill. is Breen 1-B, A-2, C-2.



B&W rev. E.



NB 66:122. Late state reverse 1-F.

Breen 1-F = [HB 1F]. Einstein:444 was struck after Crosslet 4 1804.



Rev. B.



Breen 1-A.



1803 1-F was struck after 1804 crosslet 4.

HB 1E = Breen 1-E.

See important catalogs below for: JCM 278th sale: lot 169, Small star rev., VF, \$18.00.

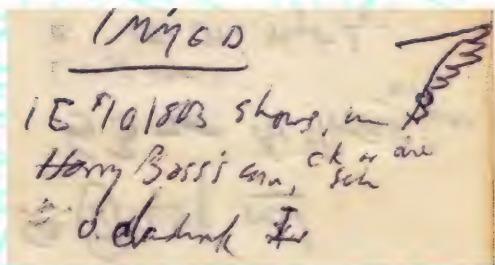
PCA III "Beck" 2/14/77:372 \$1,950.00 "[...]Extremely Fine-45. Type with small reverse stars. Leaf free of I in AMERICA. Interesting clash marks on reverse. There are a number of scratches on shield and wing[...]" Plate. —:373 \$ 2,200.00. "[...]Choice Extremely Fine-40. Type I with small reverse stars. Leaf connected to I in LIBERTY.[...]" Plate. —:374 \$2,300.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-45. Type II with large reverse stars. Obverse I shows clash marks around L. Reverse E-berry under center of A[...]" Ex-Henry Chapman[...]" Plate.

See Important sale catalogs below for a Very miserable coin.

Mehl 3/1948:281 "[...] A in AMERICA merged with wing and AMER merged at bottom[...]"

NB: 1960-70's random pages: 1803 \$10 1/12 oc K 10 (10 o'clock)

NB:WBV#5p.5: See Artyfact right. 1E \$10 1803 shows ck[crack] or die sch[scratch]. Harry Bass coin o.[obverse] clashmark.



NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796: Three pieces.

BMM "Farouk" 3/23/48:280, 281.

KS 4/3-4/59:2693 "[...]Minute edge bruise. Strictly Very Fine[...]" WB in pencil:"Rev ss"[small stars].

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1821 WB "very miserable".

Beck III:372 rev. scratches.

# 1803 EAGLES

## FOUR 1803 EAGLES

- 523 1803 Borderline Uncirculated with much mint lustre. Traces of old cleaning on obverse and minor handling marks. Very scarce in this excellent condition. *01A ~*



Lot No. 524

- 524 1803 Brilliant Uncirculated. Almost a superb specimen with full mint frost and bloom. Minor adjustment marks across cheek and hair and part of neck. Beautifully centered. Pale orange gold. Very scarce in this mint state. PLATE *1E '19'*

- 525 1803 Choice Uncirculated. Struck in yellow gold. Minor adjustment rubs at bustline and through first three stars. Truly a desirable example of this scarce coin. *shell*

- 526 1803 Sharp Extremely Fine. A beautiful "type" coin with slight wear. We have consistently tried to grade these coins "as they actually are" ... not as "we wish they were" ... You will be well pleased with each and every coin you purchase in this and all other Quality Sales. *Aut 01A*

WB's annot K 1/75:523-6 above.

See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below, same sale as above.

Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

1803.  
1-A 1 - 158 u 50 Small stars rev.; stem smooth; leaf near r. corner of I; R I apart.  
1-B 2 2 159 v124 Do. Lower beakpoint blunt, upper sharp. IED lean r.; leaf touches  
corner I; D high; serrated stem; many letters defective; ME join.  
Ckd. AM, UNI, do.  
over Do. beakpoint blunt, stem leaf to corner of I, with stem beak touch, etc. IED lean r.  
R.I. do. beakpoint blunt, stem leaf to corner of I, with stem beak touch, etc. IED lean r.

1803.  
Adams, do.  
1-C 4 C1 N163 u 50 Large stars. Perfect A's, except last in America.  
1-D 3 -- N160 u 50 Do. A in STATES perfect, other A's imp. at inner rt. foot.  
1-E 5 C3 N162 x1 75 Do. A in STATES perfect, other A's imp. at inner rt. foot.  
Possibly same as 1804 reverse.

Mintage reported as 9,795, most of them probably dated 1803.

Deliveries:

Warrant	Date	Eagles
308	June 21	1401
325	Nov. 20	1882
326	Nov. 29	1218
327	Dec. 11	1537
328	Dec. 28	2515
329	Dec. 31	1242

I conjecture that the first four deliveries, totaling 6038 coins, included pieces dated 1803, and that the single 1804 obverse die was not put into use until the latter part of December. As extensive meltings of eagles took place during 1804-5, coinage was stopped by order of President Jefferson. We can anticipate that the C.R. for 1804 eagles will be lower than for former years. Exactly how low cannot be more than guessed. If the 1804's consisted of only the 3757 coins of the last two deliveries, then the C.R. would be in the neighborhood of 1% to 1.2% at most; it is unlikely to be much higher. If the coins dated 1804 included any earlier deliveries, the C.R. would be considerably lower. But the mintage is unlikely to have been large in any event as only a single pair of dies was used and both obverse and reverse show breakage.

B. 1-A. Crosslet 4. A-1; C-1; N-463.

Obv. 1. Radially denticulated borders. Crosslet 4 of style similar to that found on half eagles and the 1805/4 half dollars. Wide date, 04 close. Large stars as in the 1800-03 coins; first star low, presenting two points about equally close to curl, 8th star very distant from cap. Tenth star shows double punching. Die defects at ER like file marks. Early specimens come with perfect die or with a crack through first two stars and bases of 18. Later specimens show this crack heavier and another one from



rim between ER to forelock. This crack becomes very heavy and the last specimens show buckling in field near it; the whole coin becomes convex in that area. (Compare Baldenhofer 1457-58.)

Rev. A. Same as 1803 Rev. F. Now usually with some stage of a crack from final A through tail and M UNITE. This crack also varies from light to heavy.

R-6, low. Barely possibly on the upper level of R-5. The finest uncirculated one appears to be that in the Smithsonian, a brilliant prooflike gem. Despite doubts as to the existence of such coins, there are at least three other uncirculated ones around: Gaylord 386-387 and Golden I 2646. Most others are in the VF to EF ranges. At least one altered date is reported, but I have not seen it; the genuine can be readily identified by the positional criteria given above, which are altogether unlike those of other eagles from 1800 on. As the reverse has large stars, it can be immediately checked against 1803 Revs. E and F, the only large star dies of this denomination.

We come now to the famous and much disputed Plain 4 coin. The Newman-Bressett book The Fantastic 1804 Dollar, Whitman Publishing Co., 19632, established satisfactorily that this enigmatic coin was an antedated fantasy piece struck late in 1834 for inclusion in diplomatic presentation sets intended for foreign monarchs along with the notorious 1804 dollars of Class I. There do not, however, appear to be as many Plain 4 eagles around as Class I 1804 dollars. A description will be convenient:

Obverse. Beaded borders, very wide date, plain 4.

Reverse. Apparently a die of the regular type, unused at the time, and recut so as to show beaded borders. Berry under right serif of r. base of final A.

Borderline R-8. At least three known, all proofs. One of these is in the complete 1834 proof set from the estate of the King of Siam, in the original case including the 1804 dollar of Class I; it is illustrated

in the Newman-Bressett book. A second is in the Eliasberg collection, ex Clapp, ex ~~Steigerwalt~~ Woodin, Steigerwalt, Parmelee 814. A third was Baldenhofer 1459, ex "H.R.Lee" ca. 1947 (i.e. ~~acquired from the~~ ~~of Louis Eliasberg~~), ex Col. E.H.R.Green (1943), ex Newcomer. A fourth is <sup>ex Brand, C. E. Green</sup> ~~summed to exist~~. These specimens would have been from the ~~xx~~ cased proof sets ~~xxxx~~ made up for the Imam of Muscat (1834) and the Emperors of Cochin-China and Japan (1835). There are also about five silver proofs, at least one of them supposed to have a plain edge. These were for long listed as patterns; the silver pieces are probably restrikes made around 1858.

B-1A. Addition to ms.: 1804 Crosslet 4. [3,757] Struck before 1803 Large reverse stars, no extra star. Rare.

Reverse of Breen 1-F. Both dies come in various states of cracks. Possibly 6 Uncs. are known. Eliasberg:(659) Unc., \$35,200.00.

Altered dates from 1801 (& probably earlier years) are reported. These are instantly identifiable from the reverses, because Large Stars rev's. occur only 1803-4, & the 1804 die differs in leaf position(s) from the 1803.

[See also P bk. ms.].

Revised version of above ms. one partial page found on rev. of astrology ms.: Rarer than this mintage figure suggests, particularly choice. Of the single variety, only a little over 1% survive (C.R.) of [3,757] delivery Dec. 28-31, 1804. Coinage halted Dec. 31, 1804, pursuant to verbal orders (unusual) from President T. Jefferson. The reason was extensive meltings by bullion dealers, exactly as with the silver dollars, neither denomination would reappear in circulation for over 30 years. But as with the dollars, a proof-only 1804 with plain 4 & beaded borders was a mysterious addition to this series. This final var. remained unexplained until 1962. It was first illustrated (without any special comment) in a photographic plate of Liberty Heads in 1869 *ANJ*; its rare auction appearances were notable largely because all specimens seen to



that time were proofs. Only with the discovery of the King of Siam's original cased proof set of 1834 (see The Fantastic 1804 Dollar Newman-Bressett, Breen {1962} *second version, first is different* ), which contained both this & the 1804 "Class I" proof dollar, was this mystery solved. Four proofs were made in Nov. 1834 for inclusion on the four cased proof sets intended for diplomatic presentation. They are rarer than the 1907 Rolled Edge with Periods & the 1933, & twice as rare as the 1804 dollar, but have not had the publicity of those. There are at least 5 silver impressions from these dies: Breen did not have the opportunity to study (unless BV missed a nb entry) to ascertain if they were made in 1834 or restruck in 1858-60. If they are on half-dollar planchets, weights will establish the time of issue: As with the 1838-39 half-dollar patterns. Half-dollar blanks 1794-1836 weigh 208 grs. = 13.48 grams; 1853-73, 192 grs. = 12.44 grams.

Beware altered dates from 1801-3. Pay attention, Large Stars revs. occur only on 1803-4, & 1804 die differs in leaf position from the 1803.

Eliasberg crosslet 4 was Unc..

1804 plain 4, [4+P] Proof only. Judd 33. Obverse: star 12, 7 repunched. Rev.: (O)F broken lower inside (foot) serif. By William Kneass. Beaded borders, plain 4 has flat top, style of various 1834 denominations. These were struck Nov. 1834 for presentation cased sets (Siam, Muscat, Japan & Cochinchina; possibly 8 pcs.). 1) Parmelee:814, Steigerwalt, Woodin:1200, Clapp, Eliasberg(:660, \$33K, HB. 2) Woodin, Newcomer, Col. Green, Baldenhofer:1459, S 10/5/1988:119 \$290K, unsold, private collection. 3) V.Brand, C.E. Green, Eliasberg, "H.R. Lee," private collection. 4) Mint, State Dept., King of Siam. See Newman-Bressett (Breen) {1962 version #2}.Add: E.I.Unterman [sic?], B&M 10/1987 (unsold), Stack's, 10/18/1989 to Martin Paul, Sup. "Father Flanagan's Boys Town" sale \_/1990, \$3.89M.

Equal to HB 2-B.

Annot.: Looks like add to #1 above between St[...] & Wo[...]: B.Betts, Cogan 6/1/71:76, IFWood & Cogan 5/19/73:1334.

[<<<<should I add the 4 corrected chapters 1804 Dol. somewhere?>>>>>>>probably yes>>>new info.>>>>>>]

NB:WBV#17p.5: \$10 1804 pl[ain] 4 **Proof** cross ref[erence] ch T[rade] \$ & their brethren.





Ill. is plain 4, **proof**. Judd-33 (3rd. ed)



Ill. is Breen 1-A, A-1, C-1, N-463.

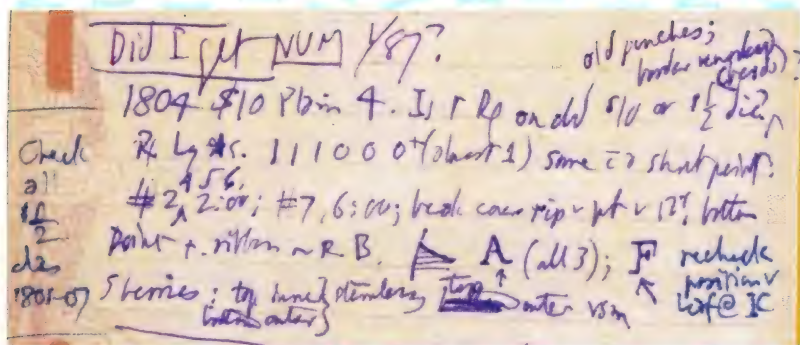
Even without the 1804 backdated proofs, a set of Heraldic eagles has become difficult to complete (even with unlimited funds & time), partly because of high floor prices on even the least rare vars., partly because type-collector pressure has made the 1798/7 7+6 stars seem much rarer than it really is.

Gem proof in King of Siam Presentation boxed set. NB 70:128. For var's. in King of Siam set, see NB 2:146.

See Important sale catalogs below.

NB 97:50 Byron Reed coll. > ef (> = greater than).

NB 95:102 Sat 4/15: Byron Reed (1829-91) coll. Crosslet 4 vf-ef.



NB 72:14

BMM 3/23/48:3786 "[...]Just a shade from uncirculated[...]." \$150.00. [Variety unknown.]

BMM A.Carter 10/55:279 'U'. [No variety stated.]

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1822 'has slight nick on edge above LIBERTY[...].'

Elder 10/1908:8 VF. Plate. \$25.50 Chapman.



33. Gold—R.E. R.8. Two known. Restrikes. *4 kn. Made 1839-51.*  
34. Silver—R.E. (A-W 23) R.7. Four or five struck. Restrikes. **\$2500.00.**

34. Silver—R.E. (A-W 23) R.7. Four or five struck. Restrikes. \$2500.00.

(The dollar in copper listed as A-W 26 is an electrotype made by Du Bois from the Mint's restrrike specimen.)

Ed Schuman: R P.E. Dr. Bolt 1609, D.C.

Walter Breen's annotated Judd 3rd."#33 4 kn(own). Made 1845-5. #34 [Restrikes] Dr. Bolt 1609, &c. Ed Schuman:AR [silver] P.E."

Unoff'l reticles: { Eckfölder (G.H.) 1858-60  
 (?) 1863 ff. (unofficial)  
 Extramural: { Micklewell  
 others

Principle: Off'l reticle used regular mint planchets  
 Unoff'l, irregular blanks: rejects or ~~other~~ coins or  
 blanks made from planchets than foreign coins be imported  
 into mint

GILMOR	Other Pre- 1857	Snowden/ Linderman + 1857 ff. (unofficial)	Mitchell/ Mintons (Eckfölder)	Extramural
Pre-1841 f.	1844-50	1856 FE +	$\frac{1}{2}$ 1851 36, 9c 49-1, 52 (7 holes)	1804d 1806g/c 1818 1823 g $\frac{1}{2}$ bu (1871)
? Sp, 10p dc	1856-7 except heaviest?	1862 L 1867 R sp 1863 \$	1877 2sp 1804 \$ 1856-8 g + 1857-2 \$	
50p 1853-55	1804 \$ I (1804 \$ IO P.R.P.)	1863-4 J \$ Motto		\$ 5 R. F
\$ 1801-2-3	For diplomatic presentation		Postern: (1859) mints dc (1850) pattern	1866 Sen. B publican

Hypothesis: Not disappointing results, but correct procedure  
 clearing up mistakes. Many countries far more than origin.  
 (chron. examples: { G.H. planchets incl. Clemente gut!! )  
 1/2 c 1851, 36 SB



Midnight Minter's article:  
 1) song & restrike - too simplified  
 2) restrike { Gifford Gilmer  
                   { Snodden/Winderman }

NB CX:46-7. Midnight Minter's Article. Restrikes.

Rita Mint Letter 1834 Proof Set, below.

Department of State -  
 Washington Nov<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1834.

Sir, the President has directed that I should let you know of his  
 kind to the King, Queen, & Duke of the Saxon, & Meissen - You are  
 requested to forward to the President, for that purpose, any  
 questions or observations you may have on the subject - As the  
 King, Queen, & Duke may be well pleased to be informed of the  
 of the - If you direct them, they will be well, & addressed to the  
 them, if it will not be too much trouble, & have a copy sent to the  
 in New York, they are sent to - They will be well, & sent to the  
 from the off. papers for the King, Queen, & Duke, & to a good number of  
 persons - The date of the 2d is yellow, & of other colors -  
 I am authorized to deliver you 1 Department of State, & 1  
 volume of books -

I am, Sir,  
 Very respectfully,  
 Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
 John Forsyth

KS 4/3-4/59:2694 "Uncirculated, some faint nicks in field[...]". WB in pencil: "not too bold a strike".

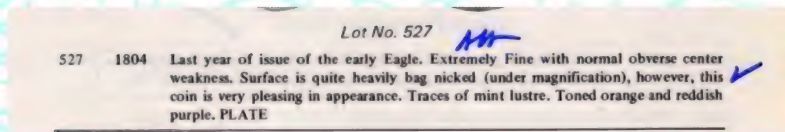
See important catalogs below for: JCM 278th sale: lot 179 EX-Fine Proof surface, usual weakness on profile, \$50.00.

NB:WBV#15p.8: For Clapp to Earle inventory see last page 1796: Two pieces. Crosslet 4 'U'; piece 2 p[roof] l[ike].

BMM "Farouk" 3/23/48:282, 283.

"H. R. Lee" S 10/47:1493 "[...]about Uncirculated...Schulman sale \$225.00[...]" \$225.00. Plate.

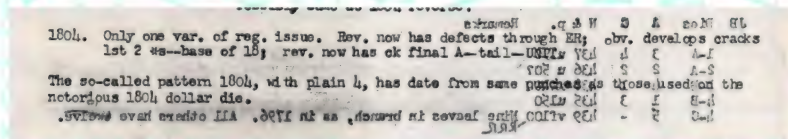
Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



WB's annot. K 1/75:572 above.

See: Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804 below, same sale as above.

Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.



Above B&W photocopy is superior to original color scan.

In a personal communication to WB from ? 11/1966 in a cat. search [proof provenance] this reads: [W.H.Woodin, Elder sale 11/2-4/1911:1200] \$10 1804 wide dt., star away from Bust. Rev. star touches top pt. of eagles beak

berry opp. right foot of A. Presentation “called Unique” & “understandably especially struck at \_\_ mint” (lot 1200, plated).

Readers: Search for WB, EPN, KB 1084 Dollar book (revised) and read date punch differences in originals and restrikes; information applies here.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<BV should you add corrected chapter pages 1804 \$ in Bib??????????/



Complete 11 piece set 1795-1804.

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## SECOND SESSION

TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 28, 1975  
7:30 P.M. - LOTS 486-1001

EAGLES  
U. S. \$10 GOLD PIECES  
1795-1933



A COMPLETE SET OF EAGLES 1795-1804

*Lot No. 486*

---

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

37

WB's annotated K 1/75:486 above and below.

## A COMPLETE SET OF EAGLES 1795-1804

486

One of the rarest sets that it has ever been our pleasure to offer at Public Auction -

\$10 1795-1804 The complete date and variety set with both large and small eagle 1797's and both varieties of 1798 over 7. We have carefully examined and graded each coin in this offering and in our opinion the coin grade as follows:

1) 1795 Small Eagle. Cleaned appearing Extremely Fine, almost invisible old scrape in front of forehead. *BIA choice*

2) 1796 Choice Uncirculated. Field not quite perfection due to tiny handling marks, regardless it is much rarer than the 1795, especially in this mint condition. *clashed dm*

3) 1797 Small Eagle. Equal to the 1795 in rarity. Different star arrangement. Borderline Uncirculated. Variety with die break below last star on right. A very rare coin. *8.28 (27)*

4) 1797 Large Herakleic Eagle. Brilliant Uncirculated with a superb mirror-like surface on reverse. Obverse - fine handling marks. Equal to the very best. *fine*

5) 1798 over 97 Four stars facing right. Brilliant Uncirculated, almost unheard of in this condition. Very faint adjustment marks across cheek and neck. Much mint bloom. Nicer than the Miles specimen that realized \$17,000 in a sale a year ago. *big ck. BE list on the edge - and*

6) 1798 over 97 Six stars facing. This is the rarest coin in this group of early Eagles and grades choice Extremely Fine with traces of mint lustre. In our opinion, of the possibly fifteen in existence none are nicer. The record realized on a similar coin, the Miles specimen was \$52,500 in a New York sale last May. *fine*

7) 1799 Brilliant Uncirculated with lovely surfaces. Slight evidence of rubbing on cheek and high points of coin. Very scarce this nice. *85 G*

8) 1800 Shade from choice Uncirculated. An interesting variety with die breaks obverse and reverse.

9) 1801 Brilliant Uncirculated. A spectacular coin with pale orange toning. Sharply struck. *BZB choice*

10) 1803 Brilliant Uncirculated with interesting clash marks on reverse. *BIA*

11) 1804 Last year of issue of the early Eagles. Cleaned choice Extremely Fine. Much nicer than most 1804's we have seen. *Full breast F.S.*

The above set is housed in a custom plastic case and is ready for display to your collecting friends. If you can afford one of the rarest sets in existence here is your opportunity to make an excellent investment. With the growing interest in rare U.S. Gold coins, sets such as these will continue to enhance in value. PLATE

Page intentionally left blank.

Reserved for inclusion of version 1 & 2 of The Fantastic 1804 Dollar.  
When I can locate the four books.



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1808

False piece —Eagle, brass, *regular type of 1798-1804*  
1808. False piece —Eagle, brass, *regular type of 1798-1804*  
1808. False piece —Half dollar, brass

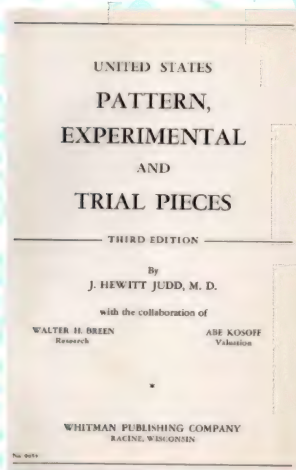
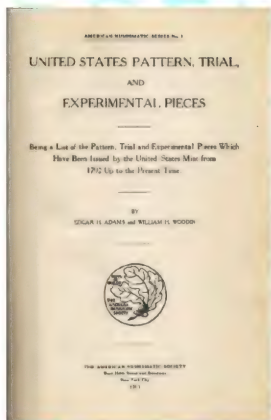
The 1808 Eagle is counterfeit. Brass, regular type of 1798-1804.

Walter Breen's annotated copy Judd 3rd.

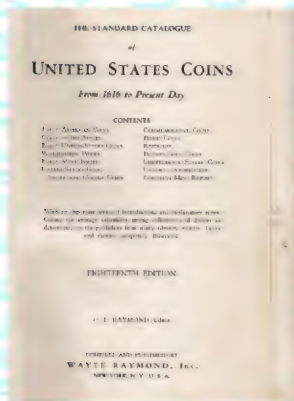
A-W: 27 silver, 28 silver.



See complete Gold Bibliography.



A-W above is Ex. Libras Walter Breen. Ditto Judd 3rd.



The first issues of these conform exactly to the specifications of the Mint Act of April 1792, as did their silver counterparts. None bore any mark of denomination before 1807. These, like most of the earliest Mint issues, have their classical counterpart as far as design is concerned. The reverse of the half-eagle of 1796 shows a naturalistic eagle standing on a palm branch and holding a wreath of laurel in his beak; the original of this design is a Roman coin. (First Count B.C., matching the famous German eagle design of 1871.) The obverse of the 1796 issue shows a seated female figure, the allegory of the antique carnos in the Kunsthistorisches Museum at Vienna. This shows the eagle standing to right, but in attributes and workmanship bears a remarkable resemblance to the 1796 die. Later gold dies are less imaginative, simply following the model of

The silver coins were limited in the early years for all denominations except the half-crown. No eagles were coined between 1865 and 1873 inclusive, apparently because of exportation. Quarter-eagles were coined only in small quantities at infrequent intervals, on demand. Even the half-eagles, which for long constituted the Mint's major output along with the gold coins, were not minted in large quantities until the late 1870s, when the gold prices were extremely low. The explanation for all this is believed to lie in the fact that many millions of dollars in pre-1854 gold were returned to the Mint after that time and received, being worth more than face value, \$100 in gold for every \$100 in silver. The new style gold coins, therefore, were not needed until the aggregate would exceed this premium.

and unroof apertures in the aggregate. In 1821, that being with one exception the earliest date of issue, the Mint Catalogue contains both the 85 and 82.50 of this year in proof, also 1824 and most later dates except 1849-53 inclusive. The exception mentioned is the 1804 eagle with plain 4 in date, and otherwise differing only in the number of stars in the border. The 1804 is the only date in which the gold of this and about five in silver (A293); no record of them exists before 1869, and as early as 1911 the opinion was voiced that these are restrikes. No real proofs could have been made before 1817, the first date of issue. The 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455,

The 1849 quarter-eagles with CAL over the eagle are properly experimental pieces. They are not that authorized by the Government. The U.S. standard since 1837 was (per thousand) 900 parts gold, 33 to 50 parts silver, 67 to 50 parts copper. The alloy of California gold, and thus of these quarter-eagles, is approximately 885 parts gold, 100 parts silver, 15 parts copper. The difference is not distinguishable by the brassy color. The CAL stamped on the quarter-eagles was evidently done while each coin was in the die, as Proskery says; the letters were put in with a punch, and were stamped in by hand, as their placement is somewhat on different coins. One or two are reported in brilliant condition.

condition. It is not the only instance of unconventional gold alloys being used by the Mint, for experimental purposes. In the early thirties the Director submitted to a Congressional committee a half-dozen pieces of the same \$2.50 denomination, struck in (1) pure gold, (2) 900 gold 100 silver, (3) 900 gold 100 copper, (4) 800 gold 200 silver, (5) 800 gold 200 copper, and (6) 750 gold 250 silver. These pieces were marked above the eagle by small punch-marks. The idea was for the Congressmen to decide among them and to authorize a mixture of silver and copper to be used in the alloy of gold coins to give them the same weight and size as the gold coins struck under the Mint Act of 1857, some five years after the experiments took place.

A similar experimental alloy was used in the 1836 pattern gold dollars by Gobrecht. A few of these were struck in gold with silver alloy, and some more were made in the standard gold (AW50). Though Archives records are lacking it would seem that these coins and this denomination were intended for the con-

invention of Congressional committees who were then preparing the Morrill Act of February 1857, mentioned above. This denomination was the first one authorized beyond the original three of the 1792 Morrill Act, in any event. Langstaff's designs were accepted, however, instead of the Morrill using the General's idea which were already at hand. (The General said there "a suite of a thousand other matters in 1850.")

The two extreme types of heads on the 1850 gold dollars, see under "Notes."

Many Texas waterfalls (and some in other states) of the gold dollar and quite a number of 10¢ and 25¢ silver coins including silver are found and offered as "road pieces." Several of these are struck in Dakota, Wyoming, and Louisiana between about 1841 and 1860. No alleged "roadpieces" should be accepted unless in good condition and unless the die work matches the genuine perfectly.

The other demonstration occurred at the same time and place. The Society met in the same hall, but on a different program and with a different speaker. The speaker was a man who had been a member of the Society for many years. He was a man of great ability and had been a member of the Society for many years. He was a man of great ability and had been a member of the Society for many years. He was a man of great ability and had been a member of the Society for many years.

In 1961 a reverse die made by A. C. Paquet was accepted for regular use on the double eagle. Its distinctive feature is tall narrow lettering. The die is found on two eagle issues: the Philadelphia mint (and on a few patterns dated 1859-60) and San Francisco mint. The die was found unusable after these coins had been struck at Philadelphia and the Director sent orders to the branch mint to cease striking its type. This order did not reach the San Francisco mint until

The other new denomination, rivaling the half-eagle of the 1820's and the eagle of the 1880's for the number of varieties, is the three-dollar piece. Fifteen proofs of the design later adopted were struck in April 1864 for presentation purposes. All the coins of 1864 and no later ones have small letters in DOLLAR. Proofs exist of all years through 1880, and at least two dates (1870 and 1876) were certainly reworked, attempting for the static effect of number.

There are, unfortunately, no references at present which give much useful information, either on the varieties or anything else, for the gold coinager. Adams published a very incomplete list of the varieties of the eagles and half-eagles 1793-1804 in the 1934 Coin Collector's Journal, but many more varieties than he knew of have been recorded.

Walter Breen's annotated The Standard Catalogue of United States Coins From 1616 to Present day {1957}.





# UNITED STATES GOLD COINS



(900)  
(2923)

1798 over 97. 4 stars before bust ..... V. Fine  
Very rare



(842)

1798 over 97. 6 stars before bust ..... V. Fine  
Very rare



1799 ..... 17483  
1800 ..... 25965

V. Fine  
110.00  
125.00

1801 ..... 44344  
1803 ..... 8972  
1804 ..... 9795

V. Fine  
115.00  
115.00  
175.00

## UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

The first issues of these conformed exactly to the specifications of the Mint Act of April 1792, as did their silver counterparts. None bore any mark of denomination before 1807. These, like most of the earliest Mint issues, have their classical counterpart as far as design is concerned. The verification for this has been recently found in an unexpected quarter. The reverse of the eagle and half-eagle of 1795 shows a naturalistic eagle standing on a palm branch and holding a wreath of laurel in his beak; the original of this design is a Roman (First Century B.C., matching the famous Gemma Augustea) onyx cameo. No. 166 in the Vienna Collections, No. 4 in Eichler-Kris's catalogue of the antique cameos in the Kunsthistorisches Museum at Vienna. This shows the eagle standing to right, but in attributes and workmanship bears a remarkable resemblance to the 1795 die. Later gold dies are less imaginative, simply following the model of the silver coins almost exactly.

Coinage was very limited in the early years for all denominations except half-eagles. No eagles were coined between 1805 and 1837 inclusive, apparently because of exportation. Quarter-eagles were coined only in small quantities at infrequent intervals, on demand. Even the half-eagles, which for long constituted the Mint's major output along with silver half-dollars and copper cents, belie their coinage records in that many dates are extremely rare. The explanation for all this is believed to lie in the fact that many millions of dollars in pre-1834 gold were returned to the Mint after that time and recoined, being worth more than face value. \$100 face in old-style gold was worth over \$106 in new style gold, and unworn specimens in the aggregate would exceed this premium.

Proof gold coinage began around 1821, that being with one exception the earliest date we find. The Mint Cabinet contains both the \$5 and \$2.50 of this year in proof, also 1824 and most later dates except 1849-53 inclusive. The exception mentioned is the 1804 eagle with plain 4 in date, and otherwise differing considerably from the single variety of the regular issue. There are two proofs in gold of this and about five in silver (AW23); no record of them exists before 1869, and as early as 1911 the opinion was voiced that these are restrikes. No real proofs could have been made before 1817, that being the year in which the Mint acquired its hydraulic press and struck off the first proof cents and half-dollars. Of proof gold the majority of issues before 1880 are very rare; some issues, such as the 1841 quarter-eagle, 1863 quarter-eagle, 1883-4 double eagles, and the well-known three-dollar pieces, are found only in proof or impaired proof condition.

The 1848 quarter-eagles with CAL over the eagle are properly experimental pieces. The alloy is not that authorized by the Government. The U.S. standard since 1837 was (per thousand) 900 parts gold, 33 to 50 parts silver, 67 to 50 parts copper. The alloy of California gold, and thus of these quarter-eagles, is approximately 888 parts gold to 108 parts silver to 4 parts of various other metals. It is easily distinguishable by its brassy color. The CAL stamped on the quarter-eagles was evidently done while each coin was in the die, as Proskey says; the letters were put in with a punch, and were stamped in by hand, as their placement differs somewhat on different coins. One or two are reported in brilliant proof condition.

This is not the only instance of unconventional gold alloys being used by the Mint, for experimental purposes. In the early thirties the Director submitted to a Congressional committee a half-dozen pieces of the same \$2.50 denomination, struck in (1) pure gold, (2) 900 gold 100 silver, (3) 900 gold 100 copper, (4) 900 gold 33 silver 67 copper, (5) 900 gold 50 silver 50 copper, (6) 900 gold 67 silver 33 copper. These pieces were marked above the eagle by small punchmarks. The idea was for the Congressmen to decide among them and to authorize a mixture of silver and copper to be used in the alloy of gold coins to give them a good color. This was authorized in Section 3 of the Mint Act of 1837, some five years after the experiments took place.

A similar experimental alloy was used in the 1836 pattern gold dollars by Gobrecht. A few of these were struck in gold with silver alloy, and some more were made in the standard gold (AW50). Though Archives records are lacking, it would seem that these coins and this denomination were intended for the con-

## UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

sideration of Congressional committees who were then preparing the Mint Act of January 1837, mentioned above. This denomination was the first one authorized beyond the original three of the 1792 Mint Act, in any event. Longacre's designs were accepted, however, instead of the Mint's using the Gobrecht dies which were already at hand. (The Coiner used them to make a three-cent silver pattern in 1850.)

For the various types of heads on the 1849 gold dollars, see under "Notes."

The first gold dollars coined in 1873 (both Unc. and Proofs) have an almost closed 3 resembling an 8 and they have sometimes been mistakenly sold as 1878's. The Coiner complained to the Director about the closed 3 and subsequent dies have a more conventional open 3. The closed type is about six times as scarce as the open 3.

Many brass counterfeits (and some in other metals) of the gold dollars, and quite a number of \$2½ and \$5 in other metals including silver, are found and offered as "trial pieces". Several of these are listed in Adams-Woodin, and bear dates between about 1843 and 1861. No alleged trialpiece should be accepted unless in proof condition and unless the die work matches the genuine perfectly.

The other denomination authorized at the same time as the gold dollar, namely the double eagle, has an extremely complicated and interesting history, which we can only briefly allude to here. The first dies Longacre made were disapproved by the Coiner as being of too high relief; the first trials were made Dec. 22, 1849, upon which occasion the dies are said to have broken. Longacre then prepared, with the help of an unnamed engraver from New York, a second and third set of master dies. The first trials in base metal were taken January 12, 1850, and the first few gold (and one silver) strikes January 26, 1850; the same complaint was revived, and these dies (undated) were not used for the authorized coinage beginning in March 1850, but the third set was. By this time Longacre was at his wit's end. The preceding January, on account of much public reproach at not obtaining the double-eagles, Longacre was threatened with the loss of his job; C. C. Wright had already been approached for the Engravership and had accepted. Longacre retained his post only by rushing to Washington and enlisting some political assistance. By 1854 the whole incident ended with the Coiner's dismissal. One mystery is: what happened to the other 1849 double-eagles besides the Mint specimen? One was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, and several were retained by the Director and the Coiner. Moreover, the Mint specimen was not from the first die, as it is not in high relief and will stack perfectly, which was the complaint against Longacre's first two attempts: they would not. Thus either the Coiner was lying, or the '1849' was made in 1850.

In 1861 a reverse die made by A. C. Paquet was accepted for regular use on the double eagle. Its distinctive feature is tall narrow lettering. The die is found on two coins from the Philadelphia mint (and on a few patterns dated 1859-60), and on a few S mint examples. The die was found unsuitable after these coins had been struck at Philadelphia and the Director sent orders to the branch mints countermanding its use. This order did not reach the San Francisco mint until after 19,250 pieces had been struck and released.

The other new denomination, rivaling the half-eagles of the 1820's and the double-eagles of the 1880's for the number of rarities, is the three-dollar piece. Fifteen proofs of the design later adopted were struck in April 1854 for presentation purposes. All the coins of 1854 and no later ones have small letters in DOLLAR. Proofs exist of all years through 1889, and at least two dates (1873 and 1875) were certainly restruck, accounting for the sizable excess of number extant over number originally struck and reported.

There are, unfortunately, no references at present which give much useful information, either on die varieties or anything else, for the gold coinages. Adams published a very incomplete list of die varieties of the eagles and half-eagles 1795-1804 in the 1934 Coin Collector's Journal, but many more varieties than he knew of have been recorded.



## NOTES ON UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

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Where an unusually small coinage occurs we have placed the number in brackets after the date. Early dates 1795-1834 are quoted only in very fine condition. Worn specimens sell for less and really uncirculated pieces bring a great deal more.

#### Gold Dollars



1849 Type I. Small head, without L on truncation. Open wreath. Coronet point midway between two stars. Very rare.

1849 Type II. Small head, with L on truncation. Open wreath. Head placed as last. Scarce.

1849 Type III. Large head, with L on truncation. Open wreath. Coronet point nearer star immediately right of it. Common.

1849 Type IV. Large head as last. Closed wreath (see below). Common. Also known with a recut date.

1849. Open and closed wreath. The first issues of this year have a wreath with branches spread wide. In the latter part of the year the type shows the branches lengthened, drawn up to the top close to figure.

The record of four gold dollars coined at Charlotte in 1854 actually covers assay pieces of 1853 discovered to have been lost in transit to Philadelphia for the meeting of the Assay Commission in February 1854.

1855 C, D, O. The 8 in date is very weak and barely shows on any of these pieces. The 1855 D is the poorest struck.

1861 D. The entire issue of this date was struck by the Confederacy from United States dies. Unfortunately the account books of the Dahlonega Mint are not available so that the amount coined cannot be determined.

#### Quarter Eagles

1806 over 4, 6 over 5. The 1806 over 4 has five stars facing Liberty. The other variety has six stars facing.

1808. The bust on this coin is a copy of that on the Half Eagles, 1807-12.

1834 Motto over eagle. One of the great rarities. Probably not over a dozen are known.

1841. All known are proofs or impaired proofs.

1845 O. The 4000 specimens struck were actually coined in January 1846 before the 1846-dated dies had arrived, and had formerly been included under 1846 in the mint records.

#### Three Dollar Pieces

1854. The first year of issue has small letters in DOLLAR. 1855 and all following years show these letters larger.

The mint records were formerly thought to be confused on the numbers struck of 1873 and 1875. It is a fact that 1873 is far commoner than the mint records indicate, and that over 30 specimens exist of 1875, but this has been established to be a result of restriking.

1856 S. Large and small mint mark S of which the smaller is much the scarcest.

1870 S. Only two specimens were struck. One was put into the cornerstone of the new San Francisco Mint building, the other remains in a private collection.

## NOTES ON UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

### Half Eagles

The many great rarities in this series would make a story by themselves. Only a very small number of specimens are known of such dates as 1798 small eagle, 1815, 1819, 1821, 1822, 1824, 1827-8-9, 1832.

1795 Heraldic eagle. This coin is believed to have been an unintentional restrike, made in 1797 or 1798. The number of stars above the eagle proves that this could not have preceded the admission of Tennessee in June 1796.

1822. Only three specimens are known of this coin, one being in the U.S. Mint collection.

1825 over 4. The only one yet traced is the brilliant proof in the Eliasberg collection.

1832. Curled 2, 12 stars. ~~One of the rarest coins.~~ The editor knows of only five pieces, two of which are in museums.

1841 O. Only two reported, only one seen (Col. Green, Farouk). Reverse of 1840 O.

1916. We have seen one or two coins of this date evidently of the Philadelphia mint but are not convinced they are not S mint coins poorly struck so that S does not show.

### Eagles

The demand for the first types 1795 to 1804 continues unabated. Prices seem well stabilized. We have given a valuation on the dates 1838 to 1854 only in very fine condition as uncirculated specimens are rarely met with and those of a lesser grade seldom collected.

1804. Plain 4, proof. See under restrikes.

1907 St. Gaudens. This design has as interesting varieties as the double eagles, the two following really being patterns but generally accepted as part of a collection of eagles. Of the variety with periods and rolled edge only 42 were struck, while the same variety with sharp wire edge is said to have been coined to the extent of 500 pieces. Two of each were melted during Mint experiments.

The St. Gaudens type eagle has 46 stars on edge, 1907-1911. From 1912 to 1933 there are 48 stars.

The 1933 eagle remains a rare piece, even though several new specimens were recently reported discovered.

### Double Eagles

Twenty Dollar pieces of the 19th century are very unusual in really uncirculated condition. These coins were made to use and are usually nicked and scratched by rubbing against one another in bags.

1854. Large date as on the silver dollar. Small date as on the cent.

1861 Paquet reverse. Two struck (Unc., not proof) at Philadelphia, Jan. 5, 1861, at which time the Director discovered that the reverse die was too wide, the borders too narrow. He immediately countermanded any further use of the design.

1861 S. Paquet reverse. There were 19250 of this type struck and released before the order from the Philadelphia Mint belatedly reached San Francisco forbidding the use of this reverse. These coins are now very rare. That they actually circulated is shown from the fact that the first one published (1937) came from a hoard in Hull, Texas.

1907 St. Gaudens. Roman numerals. The wire edge is not an intentional variant, unlike that on the eagles of this date, but instead a result of the collar giving way.

The St. Gaudens type produced in 1907 brought forth a number of interesting varieties including several patterns. Some of the dates after 1916 are of distinct rarity, especially some of the branch mints. All specimens of the 1933 coin have finally been returned to the Treasury Department by the U.S. Secret Service on the ground that they were not legally released by the mint.

The St. Gaudens double-eagle has 46 stars on obverse, 1907-1911. From 1912 to 1933 there are 48 stars on obverse.

*2 subheads*  
*Redo. — Do in colored paper.*

## UNITED STATES PROOF COINS

The introduction of this new feature in the catalogue is designed to point up the fact that, like both patterns and commemorative coins, United States proofs from dies of the regular types constitute a distinctive series entirely separate from the regular issue for circulation. Proofs, strictly speaking, are impressions from highly polished dies on polished planchets (except for the period 1908-16 when so-called mat (matte) or sandblast proofs were made, following the fashion introduced by the Paris Mint), never intended as circulating currency. They were 'polished-up portraits' of the coinage types, struck since 1817 for presentation to prominent officials or foreign dignitaries, and since 1858 also for sale to collectors at a premium. Though legal tender, just as are commemoratives, they were never counted as circulating coinage, and this fact is substantiated by the Bullion Journals and other official accounts of Mint coinage transactions. These contemporaneous accounts leave no room for doubt that proofs (at least before 1862-3) were, with the single exception of the Gobrecht Dollars, never included in reported coinage figures. Neither the gold and silver bullion nor copper planchets figured in the records. And after proofs began to be included with regular coinage in the Director's Reports in the sixties, the Coiner's accounts of proofs were still kept and submitted separately, with the medal accounts, to the authorities. This practice is known to have held at least through 1889, and its continuance for so many years strongly emphasizes the fact that proofs definitely form no part of regular coinage, but are a separate series altogether.

Up to the present time, with very few exceptions, the values attached to proof coins have not taken this fact into account. Such values have ordinarily been derived from the largeness or smallness of the regular coinage for circulation, whereas strictly speaking the rarities of uncirculated and of proof coins of the same date and denomination are independent, and the prices consequently should be also. Take for example the three-dollar goldpieces. Because of allegedly small reported coinages, 1873 and 1875-76 bring extremely high prices in proof; while dates such as 1855-6-7 and 1874, which are much more rare as proofs, bring far less simply because of larger quantities of coins reported for circulation. The double eagles in the 1880's are even more to the point. And in many other series proofs are twenty to 100 times commoner than uncirculated examples, particularly in the 1870's and 1880's; for example the three-cent nickels and half dollars between 1882 and 1887. The survival of mint state specimens is largely a matter of good fortune, whereas proofs were struck in fairly large numbers and now turn up frequently—at higher prices than the rarely seen uncirculated examples. We anticipate that this illogical situation will gradually correct itself when the correct relative rarities become known.

For all these reasons and others, it is expected that in future proofs, due to their greatly enhanced value, will be to a greater extent collected as an individual group independent of circulated and uncirculated coins of the same types, just as commemoratives are collected as a series by themselves and not mixed up with half-dollars of regular issue. This manner of collecting becomes more significant when one realizes that the rarities among a series of proofs are entirely different dates and types than the rarities among the corresponding series of coins struck for circulation, and that many dates coined in proof do not exist in specimens struck for circulation, or vice versa. In a set of proof dimes, for instance, the great rarities would be dates like 1820, 1824, 1838, 1841, 1849—53—all of these far from rare in ordinary condition; while dates like 1879-81 are rarely offered in any other condition but proof.

The commonly published statement that proofs were struck only in Philadelphia has a few authentic exceptions. The genuine proofs from the branch mints are separately tabulated. All of them are of extreme rarity.

Although we have a fairly complete account of the dates and denominations of proofs struck between 1817 and 1864, we are not pricing them in the present catalogue for several reasons. First, most of these (except half-cents and silver dollars in the 1840's) are so rare that sales of any particular items do not occur often enough to establish a stable price. Second, the prices they do bring do not

*Deceptive 'proofs'*  
*misrepresentations.*

[ 157 ]

*1900 S.O. 1811 & 1.*  
*9-22-16*

*Why proofs*  
*inter-separate*  
*from U.S.*

*Value*  
*depends*  
*on rarity*  
*of condition.*  
*Proof*  
*best (V.S.)*  
*condition*  
*being*  
*usually*  
*damaged*  
*by the process*  
*of minting*  
*of new coins*  
*(commensurate)*



## UNITED STATES PROOF COINS

adequately reflect the relative rarities in each series, for the same reasons as were mentioned before in connection with the three-dollar pieces. Third, there still remain some problems connected with restriking in this group. Evidence continues to turn up that many dates and denominations of proofs were restruck in the 1860's, some from the original dies, others from new ones manufactured for the occasion. Obviously these belong neither here nor among the regular issues, but instead in the section devoted to restrikes.

With regard to early proofs, it is true that we find specimens of the silver coinage of 1796, and of some other issues of the period, with brilliant prooflike surfaces. Nevertheless, proofs in the true sense of the word were not struck until 1817. Facilities for their manufacture came to the Mint as part of the general renovation and improvement of machinery following the Mint fire of 1816, and in the next year some cents and half-dollars were struck in proof. For the twenty- or thirty-odd years following 1817, so far as is known, the Mint struck all or practically all its proofs in sets, and these sets were intended for presentation to visiting politicians and foreign dignitaries, mints or museums. In 1834, for example, the State Department ordered two complete sets of the year to be prepared, put in special caskets and sent to the Imam of Muscat and the King of Siam; and sporadic similar orders—rarely more than two or three per year—followed in subsequent years. The important exceptions to the above statement about proof distribution are the handling of the Gobrecht Dollars, which are really patterns, and the report that Mickley obtained four proof quarter dollars of 1827 from the Mint in that year for face value.

There is no unequivocal record of the Mint's having sold sets or individual proofs to private collectors before 1858. Recipients were charged face value plus \$3 for the casket plus eight cents for proofing—this latter charge was even levied on the Mint Cabinet for proof sets in the 1860's. Both the first public sale of proof sets at a premium (\$3 for the silver-minor set, \$46 for the set with the gold) and the very name of **proofs** are the work of Col. James Ross Snowden, 1858. The name and the premium (gradually increased) have continued to the present day except for 1917-35 inclusive, 1943-49 inclusive, the only proofs besides patterns struck in those years being 1921 dollars (both types), some commemoratives and a few other items. Minor proof sets or individual coins were nowhere accounted for in the Archives until the beginning of 1878. The conjecture that they had been previously struck to the same number as silver proof sets may be very likely correct; but no evidence exists.

Italicized *values* are due for a sharp rise or fall; italicized *dates* were coined only in proof; italicized *quantities* coined are reconstructions.

The French matte finish, with several minor variations, comes on Lincoln cents 1909-16, Buffalo nickels 1913-16, 1916 new type dime, quarter and half, 1908-12 gold. The sandblast finish comes on gold 1912-16 and 1921-22 Peace dollars as well as most commemoratives, 1921-36. Other coins have brilliant fields and unpolished high surfaces, like the 19th Century proofs. The late proofs since 1936 are almost uniformly mirrorlike.

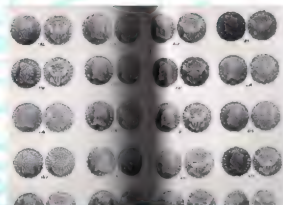
~~1912-16~~  
ABBA:  
M. Matte  
SB, Sandblast  
RG, Roman  
Sp. Semi-matte or satin finish

Ask H.F.  
to see a  
fonted pf  
(1950-58)

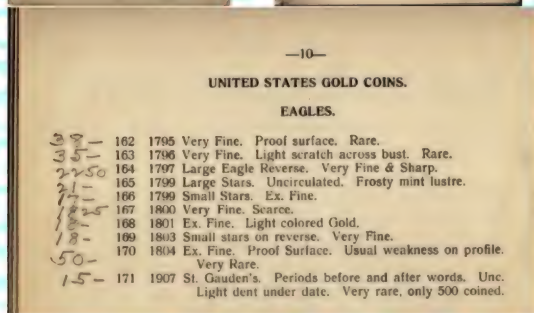
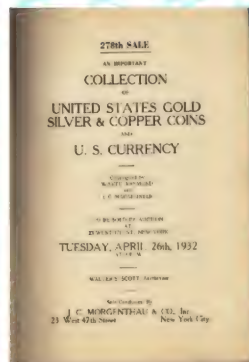
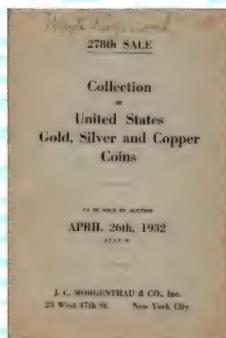
## Important sale catalogs

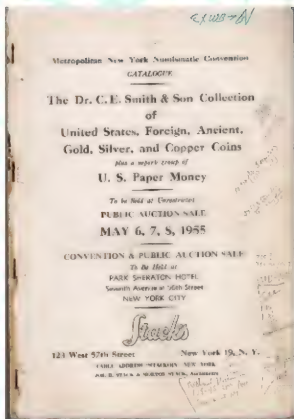
Some of below are also referenced herein & should be in the Bibliography.

Public Coin Auction Part III Feb. 14, 1977 Abner Kreisberg Corp. is a worthy catalog for the photos. A historic U.S. gold coin collection.



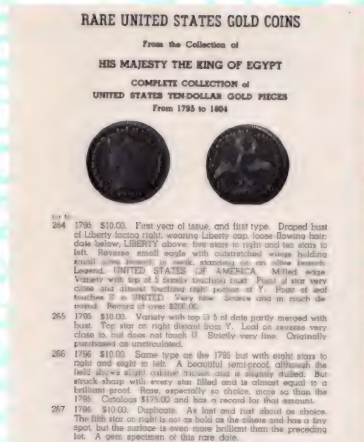
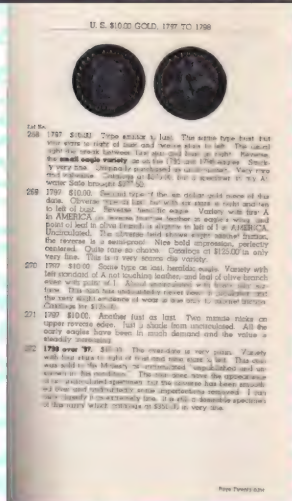
Wayte Raymond's copy Morgenthau 278th sale. Originally FCC Boyd, WB, BV; WR handwriting for Prices Realized.





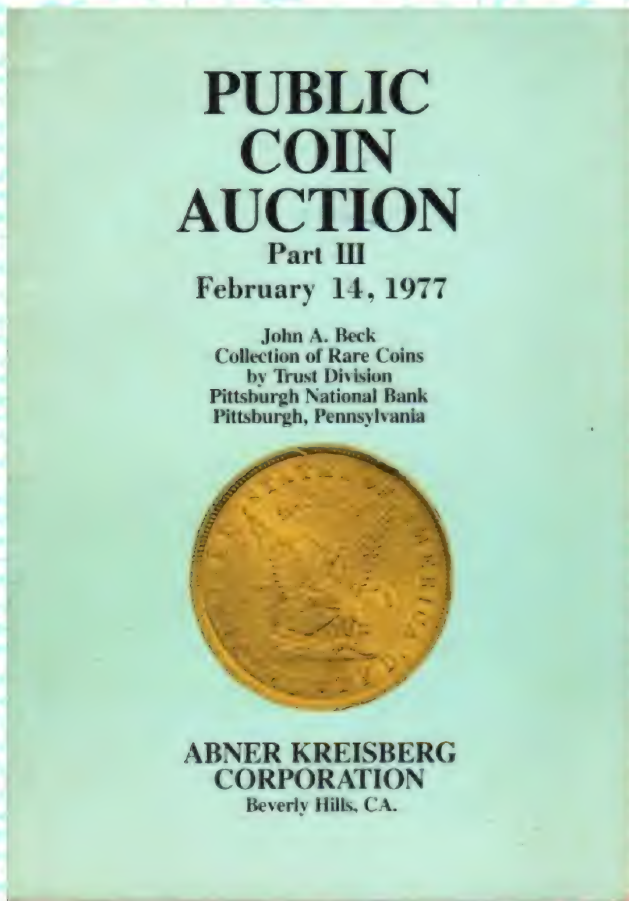
WB's S Smith 5/55: \_ above.



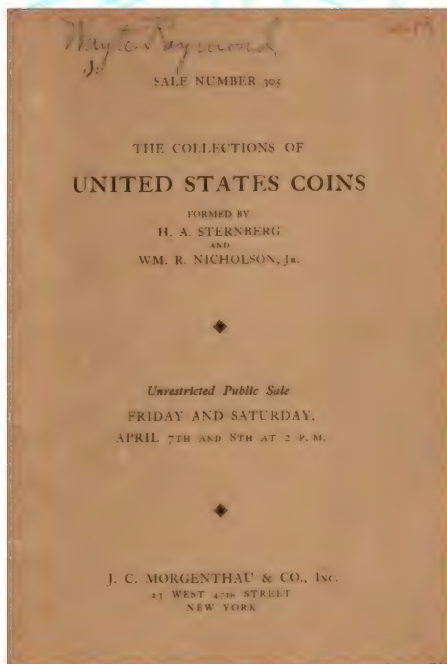


B.M.Mehl 3/23/1948 "Farouk", some were of other collections. W. Raymond

annotations. Pages 24-31 \$10.00 1795-1804; page 31-\$20.00 1907; page 32 \$5.00 1802-34. BMM honesty NO; take descriptions at your own risk.

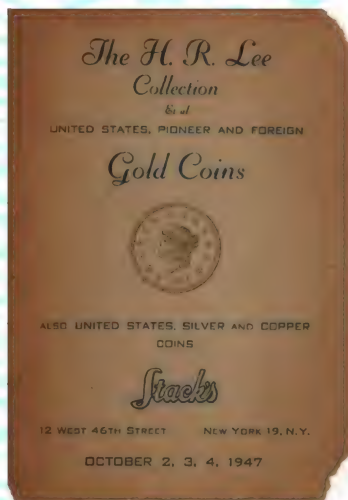


PCA III 2/14/1977 "Beck" above. Walter Breen's annotated copy.

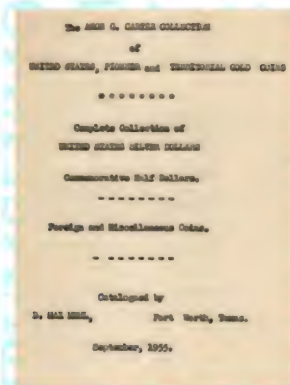


UNITED STATES GOLD COINS			
29-	(398)	1795	Eagle. Uncirculated, sharp beautiful specimen, but somewhat marred by a small planchet defect on lower obverse edge. First U. S. Gold coin and always in demand. Rare. <i>dc</i>
20	399	1799	Eagle. Uncirculated. Beautiful specimen. <i>us</i>
1850	(400)	1801	Eagle. Uncirculated. Beautiful specimen. <i>uh</i>
1550	(401)	1859	Half Eagle. Brilliant Proof. Excessively rare in Proof condition. ✓





Herein cited: "H. R. Lee" S 10/47: \_.



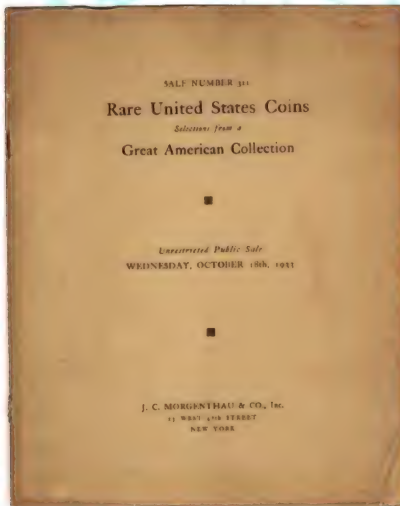
BMM A.Carter 10/55: \_.

**Warning: Gilt Patterns.**

AnKopri gilt many of patterns in 1950s  
Hol Weber (Hol) + Holerlaster in MD.  
gilt regular gold to improve its appearance.  
Besten up or made.

**NB 81: Gilt patterns. Guilt of Gilt.**

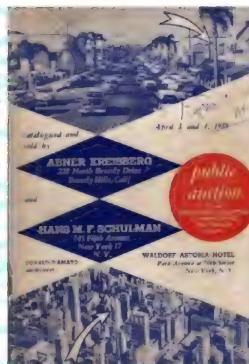
JCM #311 W.Raymond's copy.



W. Raymond's copy (cataloguer) to WB. Herein cite: JCM#311, 10/18/33: \_.



WB's KS 4/3-4/59: \_



**EAGLES**

As an investment, all early type U. S. Gold is an excellent buy on today's market as prices are destined to go much higher in the very near future. Fewer pieces are being offered.

2684 1798 Choice about uncirculated. Considerable mint lustre. A Scarce and valuable coin (590.00)

162

MAIL YOUR BIDS EARLY

**EAGLES — DOUBLE EAGLES**

2685 1797 Large Eagle. A brilliant specimen. Sharp, but has some hairlines on field. Since the former dealer sold it as very fine, we want to do the same, but in our opinion it is extremely fine (350.00)

2686 1797 Large Eagle. About Extremely Fine (275.00)

2687 1798 over 97. 9 Stars left, 4 right. A very rare coin in any condition. This is a sharply struck specimen. Extremely fine. Not priced in standard catalog and greatly undervalued in the guide book. Worth close to (1800.00) PLATE

2688 1799 Strictly Very Fine. Light handling marks in field. Valued at (175.00) *mid*

2689 1800 Sharp. Very Fine. Scarce (175.00)

2690 1801 Very attractive. Considerable mint lustre. Shade from Uncirculated. Scarce. So nice (225.00)

2691 1801 Extremely Fine. Scarce (225.00)

2692 1803 Extremely Fine and scarce (200.00) *See 57.*

2693 1803 Some mint lustre. Minute edge bruise. Strictly Very Fine and valuable (185.00)

2694 1804 Uncirculated, some faint nicks in field (350.00) *not too full. 27*

2695 1805 Mint lustre. Scarce. Extremely Fine (65.00) *W*



WB's S Smith 5/55: . Center

& below.

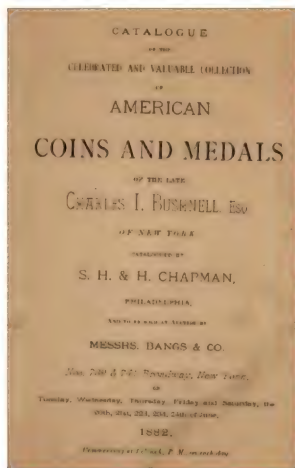
Rare 1929 Half Eagle	
1812	1929 Last year of issue. Brilliant Uncirculated. Very Rare. <b>PLATE</b>
U. S. EAGLES (\$10.00 GOLD)	
1813	1795 First year of issue. Very Fine. <b>PLATE</b> <i>12 bits</i>
1814	1796 Full lustre. <del>Uncirculated</del> . Scarce. <b>PLATE</b> <i>VF across job.</i>
1815	1797 Large Eagle. A Choice Very Fine ~
1816	1798 4 Star facing, probably bent at one time, and they straightened it out, polished. Fine. Scarce. <b>PLATE</b> <i>mint later</i>
1817	1799 Choice Very Fine
1818	1799 Very Fine
1819	1800 Extremely Fine <i>no</i>
1820	1801 About Very Fine <i>no</i>
1821	1803 Faint trace of solder in top. Very <del>good</del> <i>miscreant</i>
1822	1804 has slight nick on edge above Liberty. Extremely Fine. <b>PLATE</b>
1823	1808 Has some faint nicks in face, but still an underrated coin. From the



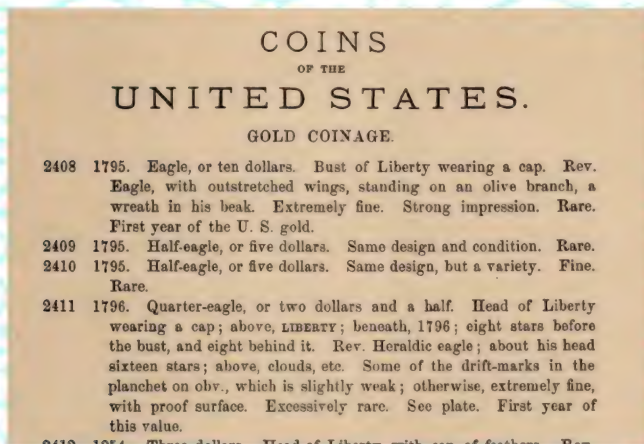
TEN DOLLAR GOLD PIECES		
888	1795 Liberty Cap with Small Eagle on Reverse. Brilliant Uncirculated with Full Mint Lustre showing absolutely no wear or cabinet friction. However, sometime during its lifetime, it has received a couple of minor rim bruises on the Reverse. We believe that this 165 year old coin is as Choice as any to be offered today.....	800.00
*****		
889	1801 Liberty Cap with Heraldic Eagle. Extremely Fine - Free of rim bruises and scratches - minute indentations and hairlines on face and in a somewhat brilliant field. A nice type set coin..	250.00
*****		

WB's annotated CSNA 10/1960 above.

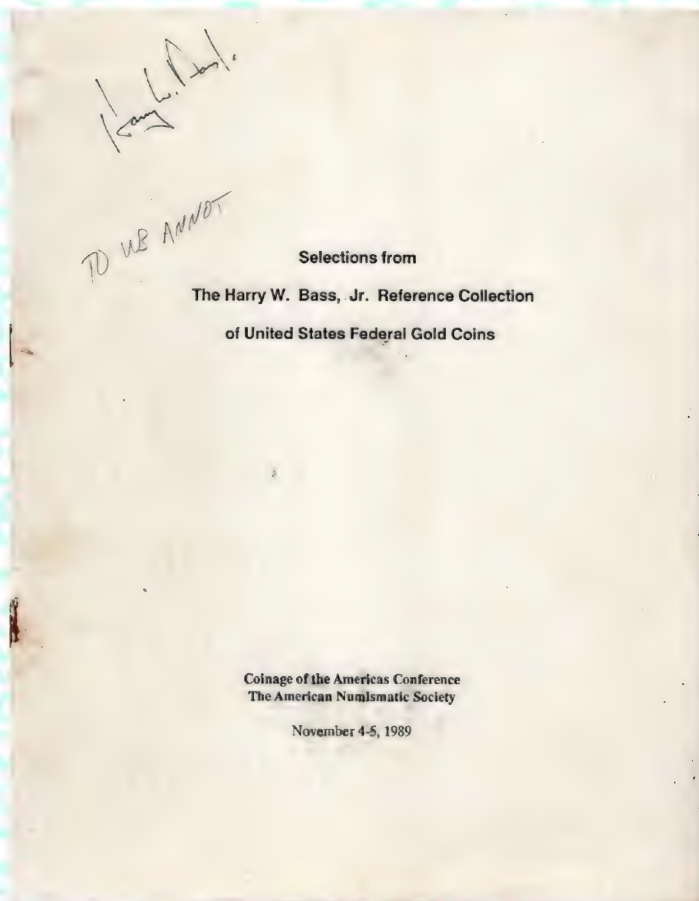




WB's Bushnell.



# Harry Bass Collection.



\$19.00 U.S. Gold

Headings: Grph = Case Group number, C# = Coin number within Group, O/R = Side displayed, Breen# = Breen's Encyclopedia number (with alpha suffixes added).  
Breen Var. = Breen Monograph designation of variety. Breen Var. way = variety designation (obverse - obverse, reverse - alpha, or first year used  
and reverse letter used in that year).

Grph	C#	O/R	Year/NA	Breen#	Breen Var.	Breen Variety	Description	Page
1	1	D	1795	6830	-0-	1A(a)	OBV. Tip of S overlaps bust base. Two lumps at top left of Y. REV. Branch tip centered beneath A. R touches left wing. Palm leaf tip nearly touches U.	
1	2	D	1795	6830	-0-	2(a)(b)	OBV. Tip of S overlaps by bust base. REV. Branch tip centered beneath A. R touches left wing. Palm leaf tip nearly touches U. Lapped.	
1	3	R	1795	6830	-0-	1A(a)	OBV. Tip of S overlaps by bust base. Two lumps at top left of Y. REV. Branch tip centered beneath A. R touches left wing. Palm leaf tip nearly touches U.	
2	1	R	1795	6831	-0-	2(b)(b)	OBV. Tip of S overlaps by bust base. Lapped, some star points shortened. REV. 9 leaves in branch. Leaf tip under U. R clear of wing.	
2	2	D	1795	6830	-0-	2(b)(a)	OBV. Tip of S overlaps by bust base. Lapped, some star points shortened. REV. Branch tip centered beneath A. R touches left wing. Palm leaf tip nearly touches U. Lapped.	
2	3	D	1795	6830	-0-	3D(a)	OBV. S clear of bust. Star 10 nearly touches cap. REV. Branch touches left serif of right leg of A. Large die rust lump between F and A.	
2	4	R	1795	6830	-0-	2(c)(c)	OBV. Tip of S overlaps by bust base. Additional lapping, star points further shortened. REV. Branch touches left serif of right leg of A. Large die rust lump between F and A. Lapped.	
3	1	D	1796	6832	-0-	1A	-0-	
3	2	R	1796	6832	-0-	1A	-0-	
4	1	D	1797	6833	-0-	1(a)(a)	OBV. No cracks at 4 o'clock. REV. That of 1796 1A.	
4	2	D	1797	6833	-0-	1(b)(a)	OBV. Cracks at 4 o'clock. REV. That of 1796 1A.	
4	3	R	1797	6833	-0-	1(c)(a)	OBV. Cracks at 4 o'clock. REV. That of 1796 1A.	
5	1	D	1797	6834	-0-	2(a)(b)	OBV. Head crack thru final T. Vertical die line below right arm of T. REV. Field lump above second T of STATES.	
5	2	D	1797	6834	-0-	2(c)(b)	OBV. Crack thru final T. Vertical die line below right arm of T. REV. Field lump above second T of STATES.	
5	3	R	1797	6834	-0-	2(b)(b)	OBV. Crack thru final T. Vertical die line below right arm of T. REV. Field lump above second T of STATES.	
5	4	R	1797	6835	-0-	2(c)(c)	OBV. Crack thru final T. Vertical die line below right arm of T. Lapped, star points shortened. REV. A(M) clear of wing.	
5	5	R	1797	6834	-0-	2(f)(d)	OBV. Crack thru final T. Vertical die line below right arm of T. More lapping after 2(e), star points further shortened. REV. Top of (C) centered below denticle.	
6	1	D	1798/7	6836	-0-	1(b)(a)	OBV. Stars 9 + 4. 8 punched over T. Crack edge - L - cap. Clash in cap. REV. That of 1797 2C. A(M) clear of wing.	
6	2	D	1798/7	6837	-0-	2(b)(a)	OBV. Stars 7 + 4. 8 punched over T. Y repunched. Cracks edge - star 8 - field, edge - E - field. REV. That of 1797 2C. A(M) clear of wing.	
6	3	R	1798/7	6836	-0-	1(b)(a)	OBV. Stars 9 + 4. 8 punched over T. Crack edge - L - cap. Clash in cap. REV. That of 1797 2C. A(M) clear of wing.	
7	1	D	1799	6838B	-0-	X(b)(a)(a)	OBV. Wide date. New. Cracks: edge - star 8 - down into field, edge - upright of I - cap - face behind eye. REV. Berry centered below A. Leaf touches center of I base. Rust lumps between UM, at N, at C and A. A clear of wing. Crack: stem - tail.	
7	2	D	1799	6839C	-0-	2(a)(b)(b)	OBV. Wide date. Microscopic pointed lump atop T, aligned with left side of T's upright. REV. Rust lumps between UM, at N, at C and A. A clear of wing. Crack: stem - tail.	
7	3	D	1799	6839C	-0-	2(b)(b)(b)	OBV. Wide date. Microscopic pointed lump atop T, aligned with left side of T's upright. Crack: edge - left serifs of L - cap. REV. Rust lumps between UM, at N, at C and A. A clear of wing. Crack: stem - tail.	
7	4	D	1799	6839C	-0-	2(c)(a)(c)	OBV. Wide date. Microscopic pointed lump atop T, aligned with left side of T's upright. Crack: edge - left serifs of L - cap. REV. Rust lumps between UM, at N, at C and A. Crack: stem - tail - arrow butts.	
7	5	D	1799	6839C	-0-	2(d)(a)(c)	OBV. Wide date. Microscopic pointed lump atop T, aligned with left side of T's upright. Rust lump left of L, above cap. Crack: edge - C on at L - cap. REV. Rust lumps between UM, at N, at C and A.	
7	6	D	1799	6839A Breen II 6/75, #201.	-0-	1(c)(a)(e)	OBV. Wide date. Cracks: edge - lower serif of B, edge - I - cap, vertically within cap, edge - below star 8. T repunched at base. REV. Rust lumps between UM, at N, at C and A. Berry centered below A. Shield crack.	
7	7	R	1799	6839A	-0-	1(b)(a)(d)	OBV. Wide date. Crack: edge - lower serif of B. T repunched at base. REV. Rust lumps between UM, at N, at C and A. Berry centered below A. Shield crack. Crack edge - arrow butts - tail - branch end, tail - A. Fine I - edge.	
8	1	D	1799	6838	-0-	3(d)(b)(b)	OBV. I and 7 very close. I very close to hair. Stars 2 3 4 double punched. Star 3 touches Y. Rust lump between star 8 and L. Cracks: edge - star 8, thru upright of L, 18ERTY - stars. REV. Rust lumps: right of U.	
8	2	R	1799	6838	-0-	3(a)(Xf)	OBV. I and 7 very close. I very close to hair. Stars 2 3 4 double punched. Star 3 touches Y. Rust lump between star 8 and L. Cracks: edge - star 8, thru upright of L, 18ERTY. REV. Rust lumps: between UM, at N, at C and A. Berry centered below A. Shield crack extended. Crack edge - arrow butts - tail - branch end, tail - A. Fine I - edge.	
8	3	R	1799	6838	-0-	3(b)(c)	OBV. I and 7 very close. I very close to hair. Stars 2 3 4 double punched. Star 3 touches Y. Rust lump between star 8 and L. Cracks: edge - star 8 - cap, thru upright of L, 18ERTY. REV. Berry centered below A. Base of A touches feather. Rust lump in shield above right tail feathers.	
8	4	R	1799	6838	-0-	3(c)(b)(a)	OBV. I and 7 very close. I very close to hair. Stars 2 3 4 double punched. Star 3 touches Y. Rust lump between star 8 and L. Cracks: edge - star 8, thru upright of L, 18ERTY - stars. REV. Rust lumps: right of U.	
9	1	D	1799	6840B	-0-	4(b)(B)(c)	OBV. I 7 tilt right. I far from curl. Point of star 1 close to curl. Denticle crumble at stars 1 and 2. No cracks at E or T. REV. Rust lumps: right of U. No clashing.	



Str#	CM	D/R	Year/M	Breed	Green Var.	Base Variety	Description	Page
9	2	0	1799	6840B	-B-	4(a)B(d)	OBV. 1 T tilt right; 1 far from curl. Point of star 1 close to curl. Denticle crumble at stars 1 and 2. Star 1. Cracks: Edge - star 8, edge - E - forelock, T - V - stars. REV. Rust lumps: right of U. Clashing in shield, etc.	2
9	3	0	1799	6840B	-B-	4(a)B(d)	OBV. 1 T tilt right; 1 far from curl. Point of star 1 close to curl. Denticle crumble at stars 1 and 2. Star 1. Cracks: Edge - star 8, edge - E - forelock, T - V - stars. REV. Rust lumps: right of U. Clashing in shield, etc.	
9	4	R	1799	6840B	-B-	4(a)B(c)	OBV. 1 T tilt right; 1 far from curl. Point of star 1 close to curl. Denticle crumble at stars 1 and 2. No cracks at E or TV. REV. Rust lumps: right of U. No clashing.	
10	1	0	1799	6840B	-B-	4(d)B(d)	OBV. 1 T tilt right; 1 far from curl. Point of star 1 close to curl. Denticle crumble at stars 1 and 2. Cracks: Edge - star 8, edge - E - forelock, T - V - stars. REV. Rust lumps: right of U. Clashing in shield, etc.	
10	2	R	1799	6840A	-B-	4(c)D	OBV. 1 T tilt right; 1 far from curl. Point of star 1 close to curl. Denticle crumble at stars 1 and 2. Cracks: Edge - star 8, E - forelock, T - V - stars. REV. Jagged die crumble within C resulting from pie crack. Cracks: LATES - edge, another cap (E)S - edge, cap - O - edge, cloud - F, edge - MEK - tail, TCA, edge - tail.	
11	1	0	1799	6841A	-B-	5(a)F(a)	OBV. Large stars. New star punch. Star 8 rotated clockwise. REV. A touches feathers. Last berry beyond right foot of A. Star 3 usually weak.	
11	2	R	1799	6841A	-B-	5(a)F(a)	OBV. Large stars. New star punch. Star 8 rotated clockwise. REV. A touches feathers. Last berry beyond right foot of A. Star 3 usually weak.	
*12	1	0	1799	6841B	-B-	5(b)G(a)	OBV. Large stars. New star punch. Star 8 rotated clockwise. Top of star 12 often flat. REV. A heavily touches feathers. Last berry centered beneath right foot of A.	
12	2	R	1799	6841B	-B-	5(c)G(b)	OBV. Large stars. New star punch. Star 8 rotated clockwise. Top of star 12 often flat. REV. A heavily touches feathers. Last berry centered beneath right foot of A.	
13	1	0	1800	6842	-B-	1(b)A(b)	OBV. Large stars (as 1799. Obv. 5) Star 1 repunched. L and T repunched (not always visible). Cracks: edge - cap, weak crack LIBERTY. REV. That of 1799 SG. A heavily touches feathers. Last berry centered beneath right foot of A. Denticle clashes above STAT.	
13	2	0	1800	6842	-B-	1(a)A(a)	OBV. Large stars (as 1799. Obv. 5) Star 1 repunched. L and T repunched (not always visible). Cracks: edge - cap, heavy cracks field - LIBERTY - stars. REV. That of 1799 SG. A heavily touches feathers. Last berry centered beneath right foot of A. Cracks: tail - arrow outs - lower UML, edge WIL, F - wing - A, edge - ME, leaves - tail - edge. Clash above T.	
13	3	R	1800	6842	-B-	1(c)A(c)	OBV. Large stars (as 1799. Obv. 5) Star 1 repunched. L and T repunched (not always visible). Cracks: edge - cap, field - LIBERTY. REV. That of 1799 SG. A heavily touches feathers. Last berry centered beneath right foot of A. Cracks: tail - arrow outs, UML, wing - A - edge, leaves - tail. Denticle clashes above STAT.	
14	1	0	1801	6843A	-B-	1(c)A	OBV. Large stars, as 1799 obv. 5 and 1800. Star 1 close to curl, star 8 away from cap. L close to cap, Y close to star. Star 13 away from bust. Cracks: edge - between 0 and 1 - bust, from crack to final 1, two 1 - bust, star 13 - throat - hair - field behind head, edge - L - cap. REV. That of 1799 SG and 1800. Denticle clashes above STAT. Cracks.	
14	2	R	1801	6843A	-B-	1(b)A	OBV. Large stars, as 1799 obv. 5 and 1800. Star 1 close to curl, star 8 away from cap. L close to cap, Y close to star. Star 13 away from bust. Cracks: edge - between 0 and 1 - bust, from crack to final 1, two 1 - bust, star 13 - throat - hair - field behind head, edge - L - cap. REV. That of 1799 SG and 1800. Denticle clashes above STAT. Cracks.	
14	3	R	1801	6843A	-B-	1(c)A	OBV. Large stars, as 1799 obv. 5 and 1800. Star 1 close to curl, star 8 away from cap. L close to cap, Y close to star. Star 13 away from bust. Cracks: edge - between 0 and 1 - bust, from crack to final 1, two 1 - bust, star 13 - throat - hair - field behind head, edge - L - cap. REV. That of 1799 SG and 1800. Denticle clashes above STAT. Cracks.	
15	1	0	1801	6843B	-B-	2(a)B(d)	OBV. New large star punch, type III, first usage. Star 1 away from curl, star 8 close to cap. Star 9 away from 1, star 13 very close to bust. Star 9 has some pointed at 1. No vertical spines in cap. Bust lump at denticle between stars 1 & 5. REV. That of 1803 1A. Lumps at bottoms of left serif of T(A) and T(A). A(M) rests on feather tip. Lapped.	
15	2	0	1801	6843B	-B-	2(c)B(c)	OBV. New large star punch, type III, first usage. Star 1 away from curl, star 8 close to cap. Star 9 away from 1, star 13 very close to bust. Star 9 has some pointed at 1. No vertical spines in cap. Bust lump at denticle between stars 1 & 5. REV. That of 1803 1A. Lumps at bottoms of left serif of T(A) and T(A). A(M) rests on feather tip. Lapped.	
15	3	R	1801	6843B	-B-	2(c)B(c)	OBV. New large star punch, type III, first usage. Star 1 away from curl, star 8 close to cap. Star 9 away from 1, star 13 very close to bust. Star 9 has some pointed at 1. No vertical spines in cap. Bust lump at denticle between stars 1 & 5. REV. That of 1803 1A. Lumps at bottoms of left serif of T(A) and T(A). A(M) rests on feather tip. Lapped.	
15	1	0	1803	6844	-B-	1(b)A(b)	OBV. Stars type III, as 1801 2B. Clashed. REV. That of 1801 2B. Small scars. Small berries. Berry under far right serif of A. Long curved stem. Lump attached to bottom of left serif of T(A). A(M) rests on feather tip. Lapped. Clashed.	
15	2	0	1803	6845	-B-	1(e)E(a)	OBV. Stars type III, as 1801 2B. Relapsed. Relashed: L, hair, throat. Lump atop C. Crack BERTY. REV. Large stars, as in 1804. Large berries. Small 14th star punched within last cloud. Berry centered under A. Short stem.	
15	3	R	1803	6844	-B-	1(c)A(c)	OBV. Stars type III, as 1801 2B. Relapsed. REV. That of 1801 2B. Small scars. Small berries. Berry under far right serif of A. Long curved stem. Lump attached to bottom of left serif of T(A). A(M) rests on feather tip. Relapsed. Relashed.	
15	4	R	1803	6844	-B-	1(2)B	OBV. Stars type III, as 1801 2B. Clashed. REV. Small stars. Large berries. Cloud space aligned with right side of E's upright. Berry under far right serif of A. Double curved stem. Lumps under right upright of M. and upright of E. Second arrowhead from left imperfect.	
15	5	R	1803	6844	-B-	1(2)C	OBV. Stars type III, as 1801 2B. Not clashed. REV. Small scars. Large berries. Cloud space to right of center of E. 3 centered over cloud space. A rests on feather tip.	

Grph	CR	O/R	Year/HN	Break#	Breen Var.	Boss Variety	Description	Page
16	0	R	1803	6844	-0-	1(a)D	OSV. Stars type III, as 1801 2B. Not Clashed. REV. Small stars. Small berries. Cloud space to right of center of E. O's right curve over cloud space. Left serif of A touches feather left, base clear of feather tip. Elongated die lump between 1A.	3
16	7	R	1803	6845	-0-	1(e)(b)	OSV. Stars type III, as 1801 2B. Relopped. Reclashed: L, hair, throat. Lump atop L. Crack BERTY. REV. Large stars, as in 1804. Small 14th star punched within last cloud. Berry centered under A. Short stem.	
17	1	O	1804	6847	-0-	1A	OSV. Crosslet 4. Large stars, type III; as 1799 obv. 5, 1800, 1801 obv. 1. Large rust lump between ER. Other die damage. Cracks. REV. That of 1803. Green I-F. Large stars, large berries. Cloud space right of center of E. Die lump between star 1 and eagle's beak. A clear of wing. Rust lumps within shield, elsewhere.	
17	2	R	1804	6847	-0-	1A	OSV. Crosslet 4. Large stars, type III; as 1799 obv. 5, 1800, 1801 obv. 1. Large rust lump between ER. Other die damage. Cracks. REV. That of 1803. Green I-F. Large stars, large berries. Cloud space right of center of E. Die lump between star 1 and eagle's beak. A clear of wing. Rust lumps within shield, elsewhere.	
17	3	O	1804	6848	-0-	29 PROOF	OSV. Plain 4. Large stars, type III; as 1801 obv. 2, 1803. Stars 2 and 7 repunched. REV. Broken right base serif of F.	

# W.Breen RitA Typed mintage figures (1951-2).

Continued from p. 100. Half eagles, 1791-1797

Year	Number eagles	Half eagles	Eagles
1795	303	5707	5707
1796	303	5707	5707
1797	303	5707	5707
1798	303	5707	5707
1799	303	5707	5707
1800	303	5707	5707
1801	303	5707	5707
1802	303	5707	5707
1803	303	5707	5707
1804	303	5707	5707
1805	303	5707	5707
1806	303	5707	5707
1807	303	5707	5707
1808	303	5707	5707
1809	303	5707	5707
1810	303	5707	5707
1811	303	5707	5707
1812	303	5707	5707
1813	303	5707	5707
1814	303	5707	5707
1815	303	5707	5707
1816	303	5707	5707
1817	303	5707	5707
1818	303	5707	5707
1819	303	5707	5707
1820	303	5707	5707
1821	303	5707	5707
1822	303	5707	5707
1823	303	5707	5707
1824	303	5707	5707
1825	303	5707	5707
1826	303	5707	5707
1827	303	5707	5707
1828	303	5707	5707
1829	303	5707	5707
1830	303	5707	5707
1831	303	5707	5707
1832	303	5707	5707
1833	303	5707	5707
1834	303	5707	5707
1835	303	5707	5707
1836	303	5707	5707
1837	303	5707	5707

Notes:

- This figure evidently cannot include the coins with heraldic eagles; the number of these is actually a product of later than June 1796 (pistons stars), and as the 1795 coins bear only the small eagle, presumably in 1796 or 1797 minted.
- Revision into small and large eagle tokens undeterminable; the change may have occurred anytime as was said in 1796 from small eagle to large eagle.
- None counted as shown.
- The first delivery (Jan. 1, 1797) by direct to the mint (from the mint—this means) may have comprised all the small eagle coins.
- No coins of this date known; they may have been from 1796 dies.
- Like the preceding, dated in the year noted, but unknown or dated. The two columns are not have been alterations.
- See comments.
- Revised from Breen's Mint Manual (1951), by reference for or against this in the Mint records.



# Research In The Archives Gold Coinage Revisions By Dates.

By Walter Breen. November-December 1951. WB's copy.

## RESEARCH IN THE ARCHIVES

### GOLD COINAGE REVISIONS BY DATES

By WALTER BREEN

CONTINUED

#### Philadelphia

For brevity I omit the quarterly figures, but the figures presented are valid and all are based on the (sometimes weekly) reports in the Bullion Journals. The totals in American State Papers—Finance contain typographical errors. Another source of confusion previously has been the fact that Director's Reports in 1796-7 were ordered by Congress prematurely. The 1796 report was delivered Nov. 29 and consequently a delivery of 854 eagles, 2797 half-eagles and 897 quarter eagles was included by error in the 1797 report although all these were made in 1796 to be exact, between Dec. 8 and Dec. 22. This is corrected here.

	\$10	\$5	\$2½
1795	2795	8707	
1796	6934	6196	963 (both types)
1797	8323	3609	859
1798	7974	24867	614

N. B. First coinage of 1798 half-eagles Jan. 4, 691 pieces—were these the small eagle type? I believe that a study of early

gold die varieties would prove that the 1795 heraldic \$5.00 were made in 1798.

1799 17483 7451 480 Dec. 28

All other published figures confirmed though no explanation appears for the unknowns (1801 \$5, 1802 \$10, 1803 \$2.50). The latter were not carryovers.

1807. There is no reasonable evidence for or against Snowden's division of the \$5: 33496 Type I

50597 Type II

1808-14. No problems.

1815. 635 Nov. 13 plus 3 for assay.

The Coiner had \$3661.33 in gold fit for coining 12/31/15; no more coined because of the Mint fire which made extensive repairs necessary to the rolling apparatus.

1818-33. No questions. Figures obtained (as above) confirm published.

1834. Motto \$5—74709, \$2½—4000 Coinage stopped May 30 anticipating the reduction in weight. The Act of 6/28 became effective on August 1, 1834.

November-December, 1951

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Snowden doubts that the \$2.50 were ever issued. No Motto \$5—685028, \$2½—112234.

In 1835-6 approximately \$2 million of gold of former ratio was recoined; far smaller amounts thereafter. The totals are not determinable since accounting of source of bullion deposits is far from complete. The whole amount of gold of former ratio brought into the Mint cannot be far below \$3 million and may exceed it.

1838. Coinage of Eagles resumed December; four "specimen coins" sent on or before Dec. 10. One of 1838 (and-one of 1839) proof is in the Mint Collection.

1841 Quarter Eagles. None reserved for assay. Evidently they were only a "specimen" coinage like the half-cents.

1849. Gold Dollars. Coinage started May 8. There exist a few pieces with small head somewhat differently executed and placed than on the regular; one is in the Mint Cabinet and is the first gold dollar proof I have seen and the second I ever heard of, moreover besides the 1849 \$20 it is the only proof coin of that date in the collection. Probably a pattern as this type head was not perpetuated. It is impossible to say when the open wreath was replaced by the closed wreath; no data are known to me on this subject other than letters (far later) of the D/M saying that the open wreath were the "first issue".

1850. Regular \$20 coinage for circulation started March 12. A proof was in the J. B. Longacre collection.

1854. Probably the best division would place the gold dollars as follows:

Type I 840040

Type II 799405

The difficulty here is in assigning a delivery of August 19 (56097). The

first "specimens" sent the Secretary of the Treasury for approval were transmitted August 17; when his letter of approval arrived is unknown—it has not been found in the Archives. Coinage had been intermitted since June 17 (783943 till then); evidently the change of type was then contemplated. If the Sec'y telegraphed his reply, it is possible that the Aug. 19 delivery was of Type II; but no real evidence. In the absence of better data, the figures I gave above (allowing the Aug. 19 delivery to be included as Type I) will stand. It is almost certain that the Sec'y approval came on or before Aug. 24 and that is the assumption I am proceeding on.

\$3.00 gold: Regular coinage started May 1, first delivery 23140 on May 8. On April 28, 15 "specimens" were enclosed in a letter of the Director to the Sec'y of the Treasury.

1858. The 2521 eagles did not include proofs, as far as can be learned.

It may be mentioned that around 1860 the Director caused about \$2 million in gold dollars of the small size to be remelted and recoined. These pieces had lain for years in the N. Y. Assay office, and in the Director's Report (for 1860 or 61, I believe) there is mentioned his belief that the rest ought to be gradually recalled, the "evil" of having two coins of different sizes but same value being only too apparent. Whether any more were actually recoined I have been unable to find out, but the chances are that any subsequent recoinage was small on account of the suspension of specie payments and the consequent hoarding of what precious metals were available during the Civil War.

Later notes on gold coin will be found among proof coin notes.

Mint Warrants: NB 45:44-5 below.

45:	1795 A		
49	Warrant	85	90
50	1 7/11	744	
51	26 8/11	520	
52	27 14	1000	
53	28 18	105	
54	29 21	380	
55	34 9/1	1634	
56	35 3	1054	
57	36 12	2400	
58	38 16	870	
59	39 22	1097	
60	40 24	200	
61	45 10/10	387	
62	48 24	200	
63	51 27	611	
		8707	2795
			1796
			1797
			657-4
52	1/9/96	1181	
54	39	174	
57	37/1	188	
58	19	1169	
60	21	116	
64	6/2	2332	
66	21	960	
67	28	780	
70	7/27	2346	
75	9/21	273	
77	12/8	2460	
79	22	337	854
80	1/14	432	434
82	2/28	98	
83	3/14	128	278
85	25	345	5
86	4/8		831
			22 66
			897
			1797 MS
			6/20: 367

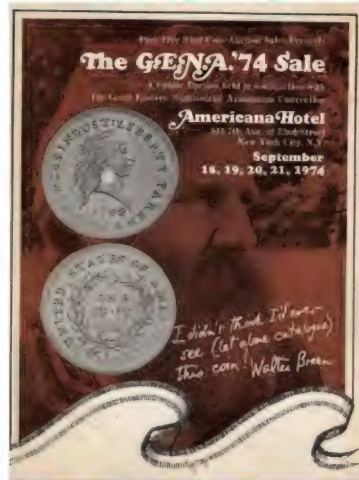
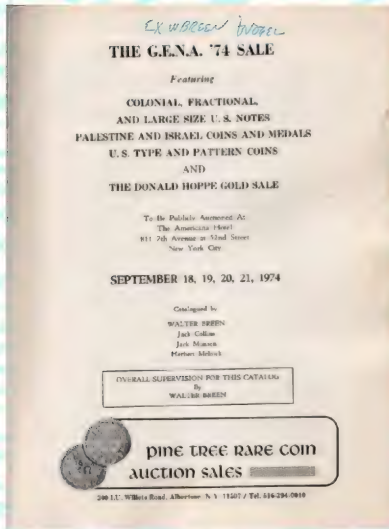


87	4/20	24	5	10
88	5/2		1162	1630
91	6/7		545	1149
93	29	201	113	1907
95	7/8		470	2801
97	8/12		124	
99	8/28		138	

Mint closed

45;  
45  
14  
5/2

WB's copy GENA PTA 9/1974.



clearing, of no importance. Small edge test mark near 4th star, "probably made by someone distrusting the Confederacy's ability to make gold coins," as described in our 1973 G.E.N.A. sale, where this was lot 511. **Final date and by far the rarest of all Dahlonega half eagles**, probably between 1.5% and 2% of the original mintage surviving—1,597 by the Union and an unknown but probably smaller number by the Confederacy. At present there is one almost Unc. (the Bell II—Miles—Stack's May 1974 piece at \$12,500), possibly half a dozen with claims to Ex. Fine status, of which maybe two others equal this one, the rest not quite equal; the rest range from VF plus down through barely Fine. (Photo) (\$8,500—up)

## A SPLENDID COLLECTION OF EARLY EAGLES

## CAPPED BUST TO RIGHT, HERALDIC EAGLE

1797-1804

Diameter 33 mm; Reeded edge

- 2052 1797. Condition Census 1797. Breen 2-C, from a later die state, showing both cracks from rim, between EF and branch and through C to branch. **Obv. Extremely Fine**, numerous adjustment marks at right and lower borders, as made. **Rev. better than Extremely Fine**, actually nearer to Almost Uncirculated, with virtually full breast feathers and much original prooflike gloss, both sides highly lustrous, with touches of beautiful antique reddish-gold patina here and there. This is definitely in the Condition Census for the variety. (Photo) (\$5,500—up)

## The Very Rare 1798/7 Four Stars Facing

- 2053 1798/7. Stars 9 + 4. B. 1-A, intermediate state: only the first crack described in the monograph. **Sharpness of VF obv.**, almost EF rev., but cleaned long ago and with minute lt. scratch in left obv. field. At edge below date (not visible from either side) is a region where reeding has been skillfully removed, possibly representing successful removal of a loop (the other area of reeding weakness, opposite AMER, appears to be made). The coin does not look impaired. **Very rare**, one of 18 specimens traceable out of only 900 originally coined, Feb. 17, 1798. Considerably better looking than the Gilhousen coin, among others. **Comparable to the Wolfson-R. L. Miles-Theodore Ullmer specimen in Stack's May 23-24, 1974 sale, which brought \$17,000 on the floor of that auction after very spirited bidding.** Ex. James Lawson coll., prior to 1880; Mr. Mabel R. Sanford; lot 443, 1947 ANA Convention sale; lot 205, Kovoff sale, Oct. 13, 1965. (Photo) (\$12,500—up)

- 2054 1799. B-4E. The famous "Irregular Date", very small berries. Latest die state known, with extensive cracks and rim breaks at left border. A classical example of **Extremely Fine** grade, with highly attractive, lustrous surfaces; plain small bag mark in field before mouth, but no other handling marks of any consequence. (Photo) (\$3,750—up)

- 2055 1799. Another Breen 4-F, same dies as above, very early die state, before any of the breaks developed. **Nearly Extremely Fine** obv. **Very Fine**, rev. fully EF, somewhat lustrous with light touches of friction and the usual tiny bag abrasions; barely discernible traces of filing at left obv. border, only visible with a glass. These vicissitudes would probably be either ignored or overlooked by other cataloguers, and only mentioned here for the sake of accuracy and the enlightenment of perfectionists. The central weaknesses are the result of having been poorly struck up in those areas (as usual),

and this lack of sharp definition should not be confused with wear, as this was inherent with its method of manufacture. A rather attractive example of the Type, and an excellent match for "Circero" 64. (Photo) (\$3,250—up)

- 2056 1803. Small rev. stars. B. 1-A, rev. of 1801, leaf free of I. **Brilliant borderline Unc.**, excellent sharp strike except at bottom curl, lower drapery, left stars and wings; even these details are better brought up than on many examples. Light rev. adjustment marks, as made; nearly, though not quite free of bag marks. **Very scarce**, much finer than the piece in our "Walter Breen" sale, or most others offered in years. (Photo) (\$4,000—up)

## CORONET TYPE, NO MOTTO ABOVE EAGLE

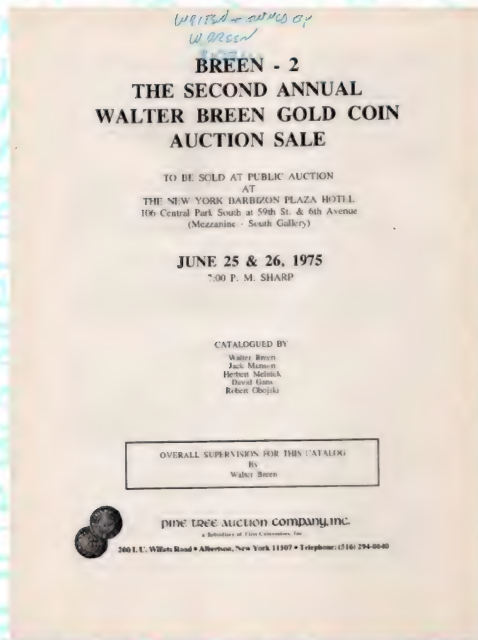
1838-1866

Diameter 27 mm; Reeded edge

- 2057 1838. B-2, slightly higher date than B-1, left upright of 1 in line with end of truncation. **Fine** in sharpness, some regions better. Two small nicks on rev. rim and expected bag marks for the grade. **Mintage 7,200**, Prized as first year of the design. (\$550-700.)
- 2058 1839/38. Large letters. B. 1-2. Traces of an 8 show at upper right outer curves of 9, and at lower left of loop (earlier states of this rare obverse die also show additional traces). **Rev. Without the die file marks visible over FD**, or the usual die breaks around the legend. **Fine, the reverse much bolder than the obverse, nearly Very Fine**. Attractive surfaces, with no abrasions of more than microscopic importance. Not in the same class as the EF in our "Walter Breen" sale last March, at \$1,750, but nevertheless, this is an excessively rare overdate variety, one of only about six seen to date. (\$600—up)
- 2059 1842-O. B-1, date about centered. **EF** with considerable mint lustre remaining around stars, letters, and in protected regions of devices. Expected light scattering of bag marks with none of these in any way affecting design. **Mintage only 227,400**. Not many finer have been offered in recent years. (\$500-600.)
- 2060 1843-O. Breen 2; normal date, centered. Late state of rev. die crack (from brim to wing at left, through tops of TATES OF, and from final A to arrow). **Barely EF with claims to better**. Normal compliments of bag marks for the grade. (\$400-500.)
- Unpublished Variety
- 2061 1847-O. Unpublished new variety. **Obv. B-1, perfect die, Rev. Mintmark very far to right, above space between N D, similar to 1846-O B-5, possibly the same die. Better than VF sharpness**, some lustre, extensively bag marked. **Very rare**, first seen though probably others exist as two people attribute these coins. (Photo) (\$400-500.)
- 2062 1848. B-1; open 4 (crosslet of 4 distant from base); rev. cracked from brim to left wing tip, extending down to base of shield. **Borderline EF**, a scattering of very minute bag marks and light pin scratch on Ms. Liberty's cheek. **Much rarer than coins of the year preceding.** (\$300-400.)
- 2063 1849. B-2. Late state of obv. die. Crack extends through date to region of thirteenth star; perfect rev. die. **Extremely Fine** with some details of rev. eagle device poorly brought up. Many very tiny bag marks both sides. (\$275-375.)



WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 June 1975



EAGLES  
TEN DOLLAR GOLD  
CAPPED BUST TO RIGHT, SMALL EAGLE 1795-1797

THE VERY RARE 1795 BREEN 3-B  
ONE OF THE FINEST KNOWN



- 197 1795. Breen 3-B. (Low R-7) About Unc., lustrous, partly prooflike, small lint marks (from lint adhering to die at time of striking) on cap and in fields; light obv. adjustment marks (in planchet before striking, obv. more sharply struck than rev., which also shows faint traces of cabinet friction, from when this piece occupied a velvet display tray. Faint signs of old cleaning. **One of the finest known of this rare and elusive variety, apparently second finest known.** (The solitary uncirculated piece was in the Parmelee sale in 1890 and has not been seen since.) Few have been offered publicly in any grade: Walton 3088 was burnished, Beck 490 was EF and scratched up, and that in the 1951 ANA Convention sale was only VF. (Other specimens offered with the die lump have proved to be Breen 4-B's, much less rare.) (Photo)

Star touches cap; plain lump between FA

ONE OF 5 KNOWN OF THE  
EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1795 NINE LEAVES EAGLE  
SECOND FINEST KNOWN



- 198 1795. Small eagle, first design and first year of issue. Breen 4-C, Adams 5, Newcomer 439, Almost R-8. The exceedingly rare variety with only 9 (rather than 13) leaves in branch on which eagle stands. **ABOUT UNC. OR BETTER, SOME ORIGINAL PROOFLIKE SURFACE**, small pre-striking planchet chip between rim and 9th star, small plain lint mark (as made) just above bottom rev. rim, minor rev. adjustment marks plainest at center (also as made), a number of minute granular defects (in flan before striking), light signs of old cleaning, of no importance. Except in very centers on either side, this is well struck and centered. **The variety's extreme rarity is attributed to immediate failure of this reverse die;** the breaks at first T of STATES and below branch are well advanced. At present only five specimens are located, despite extensive

search, the present one being by a small margin second finest:

1. Dr. Angus Black coll., Unc. Very similar to this one.
2. The present example, AU.
3. "Cicero" 61, EF, severe planchet defects.
4. Ex Granberg (misremembered as "Clapp" in Adams's 1934 series), Woodin, Newcomer. VF. Unlocated.
5. Andrew M. Watson coll. (Oct. 1966), lot 1863. VF but abrasively cleaned. (Photo)

#### THE VERY RARE 1797, TYPE OF 1796, SMALL EAGLE



- 199 1797. Breen 1-A. (Nearly R-6) Stars 12 and 4, rev. small eagle die of 1796. Latest die state known, with not one but three breaks beginning at border just below last star. **DIFFICULT TO GRADE, THIS LUSTROUS PIECE HAS SOME DETAILS OF VIRTUALLY FULL MINT SHARPNESS, OTHERS WEAKER, AFFECTED BY LIGHT ADJUSTMENT MARKS CRISSCROSSING OBV., SURFACES SUGGEST AU.** Similar to Bell II 303, called "AU profile," and possibly a hair's breadth superior to the Stanley Seaman-Scanlon 2445 example. (The few finer ones have been impounded or have long since found stable homes; no record in full unc. in the last thirty years.) Of great desirability because an ephemeral type coin, the last appearance of the Small Eagle design and one of the very last ones struck (May 2, 1797; in all 3,615 struck since March 25), rather than 1795 and 1796, and one of the finest seen in many years. Any estimate of value on this would be guesswork. (Photo)

#### CAPPED BUST TO RIGHT, HERALDIC EAGLE 1797-1804

##### CHOICE 1797



- 200 1797. Heraldic eagle. B. 2-B (high R-4). **Brilliant frosty Unc., sharply struck, splendid!** Numerous lint marks on both sides (from lint adhering to dies), virtually though not completely free of bag marks, the exception being three minute ones before brow.

For some reason, most of the nice ones to appear in the last couple of decades have been from other dies; no auction record of a possibly finer 2-B since WGC 630. Finer than "Num. Enterprises" Oct. 1965, lot 294, finer than Beck 492, much finer than "Cicero" 62 or 1084, or than the Gilhousen- "Rao Rancho" example, EF at \$3800. Ex J. F. Bell collection, Bell II lot 304 (1963) where illustrated and where called a Brilliant Uncirculated gem. **The longer we look at this piece, the better we like it. (Photo)**

#### FINEST OF ONLY 2 KNOWN

OF

#### THE EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1799 WIDEST DATE, BREEN 1-A



- 201 1799. Small stars, widest date. B. 1-A. (R-8). **About Unc., scattered minute bag marks, sharp strike; faint rev. adjustment marks at top and very center; pre-striking planchet chip behind cap. Of the highest rarity; finer of only two reported, the other, the merely VF Guttag-Newcomer coin, pictured in Adams (1934). One of the most important rarities in the Eagle series. (Photo)**
- Obv. Numbers widely and evenly spaced. First star presents two points about equally distant from curl-as far away as is the 1. Differs from obv. 2 in having much wider date, 17 further apart, 8th star away from cap, differs from the new obv. (lot 433, Merkin 272 sale) in the pattern of the breaks (the latter has breaks from rim to 8th star towards cap, heavily down through field, and from rim through L to cap, reaching cap below r. serif of L) and in position of 13th star, which is not so near drapery as on the new die. Rev. Small oval put between UN. Heavy cracks; rim towards a point in field midway between 8th star and cap, rim to left-occids of L to cap below left tip of L, from near top of cap about vertically down through cap into hair; from rim between 18 down through left base of B and field, pointing almost to foreneck.
- 202 1799. B. 4-E. "Irregular Date", long stem pointing at border. (R-3) Perfect dies. **Difficult to grade, this piece shows many details of full mint sharpness, others weakly struck (drapery and wingtips, parts of profile and cap); much mint lustre, some granularity near borders, faint traces of old cleaning. Rather similar to lot 2055, our 1974 GENA sale, and the remarks there hold good here. An overall grade of EF would be much too low; of AU, without further qualification, would be misleading. This one has to be seen; it is attractive enough not to be a disappointment. No bag marks serious enough to require description; practically full breast feathers, a feature usually indicating a grade of AU or higher. (Photo)**
- 203 1799. B. 4-E. "Irregular Date" as last, in a much later die state; four obv. rim breaks, shattered obv. and cracked rev. die, though not the terminal state. Bought as "BU", this lustrous coin is nearer to AU plain small bag mark on edge of neck, otherwise practically free of them. Obv. surfaces somewhat granular. Possibly a hair's breadth finer than that in our first Breen sale. Excellent example for a type collector. (Photo)



## CHOICE 1799

- 204 1799. Another "Irregular Date". B. 4-E, with the extensively broken obv. die. **Brilliant, glittering, frosty Unc.**, softly struck in centers as often, and with microscopic bag marks. (Photo)
- 205 1799. Large stars (as in 1800-04). B. 5-G, (R-2) **Brilliant borderline Unc.**, couple of light shallow rim nicks on either side, of no importance; few tiny scattered bag marks. Obtained as "BU", of course, and actually far above the usual "commercial Unc." Possibly a hair's breadth finer than Beck 498; in a class with the Newbater coin last February. Another one for type collectors. (Photo)

## CHOICE 1800

- 206 1800. Only the one variety. (R-4 high) Bought as "AU-unc.", of which grade at least the first part would be justifiable. Some prooflike luster with many minute signs of handling though no bag marks serious enough to require description; light obv. adjustment marks. Shallow edge dent over RI. Generally well struck except at first five stars, which are clear but flat. Not often exceeded. (Photo)
- Usual breakers die state; rim crumbling near 11th star

THREE CHOICE EXAMPLES  
OF 1801

- 207 1801. B. 2-B, rev. of 1803, wide date, 10th star very close to cap (R-2), without spines in cap. **Unc.**, the reverse, with somewhat prooflike fields and sharply struck details including breast feathers, qualifying as choice; the obv. partly frosty, with few light shallow bag marks, and with several very faint hairlines as well as a few tiny spots of cabinet friction—evidently this was displayed in an old fashioned velvet tray, with the splendid reverse up. Small faint shallow rim dent near branch. Better strike than the Gilhousen-Rio Rancho coin, lot 192, at \$5,600; similar overall to the two Steckler pieces. (Photo)



- 208 1801. B. 2-B, another. **Brilliant Unc.**, the rev. especially with remarkably prooflike surface. Nearly though not completely free of signs of handling; no

appreciable bag marks; light edge dent at 7-00 on reverse. Obv. with faint and unimportant evidence of cleaning. In all, exceptionally nice looking. (Photo)

- 209 1801. B. 2-B a third. This also was obtained as AU, an understandable grade; the piece has practically its full original sharpness with some luster, but surfaces are granular from minute to microscopic handling marks plus faint, unimportant traces of old cleaning, which have mostly given way to natural pleasing reddish tone. Another one for type collectors. (Photo)
- 210 1803. B. 1-A. (R-4) Small rev. stars, leaf free of 1. Obv. a classical VF, bold and clean, rev. nearer to Ex. Fine; will probably bring an Ex. Fine price. No handling mark worth mention except a shallow and hardly noticeable rim dent at lower reverse. (Photo)
- 211 1803. Another B. 1-A. Similar but a little sharper, and with mint luster, fully justifying Ex. Fine grade, and making understandable the "XFAU" label which came with it. Localized weakness of striking at arrows. Few scattered bag marks which can be accurately called trivial. At least equal to Gilhousen 620. This should go to a collector who needs the date rather than merely the design. (Photo)

SUPERB 1803  
NEAR UNIQUE REVERSE DIE

- 212 1803. B. 1-C. (R-6) **Brilliant prooflike Unc.**, sharply struck, a remarkable beauty. Few faint and entirely trivial obv. field handling marks. Small slightly granular patch of tone at TA, clouds and stars below. Even as a representative of the date 1803 this is a quite incredible piece. Winter 242 (a B. 1-A and not quite equal to this coin) brought \$6,750 and the Steckler coin also went at what was then a world's record. As a specimen of this nearly unique reverse die, it acquires still greater importance. (Photo)
- Immediately identified by D practically touching wing, extra cut lines on point of beak which touches star, first and third A's usual, die of the Dr. Sloss coin, lot 649, New Netherlands Sale sale

## EXCELLENT SPECIMEN OF THE VERY RARE 1804



- 213 1804. Only the one variety. **Brilliant borderline Unc.**, obv. with traces of old cleaning, rev. considerably

finer; usual uneven impression, weak on 13th star and profile (comparison with Bell II 310, Austin 1064, Ruby 1228 and Winter 744 will be very instructive here), many light obv. adjustment marks, small lint mark r. of final S, but almost free of bag marks; completely free of any other defect worth mention. Actually very similar in overall quality to the Winter specimen at a record \$11,000. Probably one of the last batch delivered, Dec. 31, 1804, 1242 specimens out of 3,757 in all (Dec. 28-31); certainly one of the top examples of the variety. (Photo)

# Office Copy ANA 1952 WB's copy.



594 1907 "D". Brilliant Uncirculated. Mounted in a black composition holder. Popular as a type coin.  
 595 Eagles. 1795. The first year of issue. Abr. Uncirculated. Beautifully centered and struck, but with two or three  
 596 minor defects. Only 2,795 pieces coined. This beauty should realize \$175.00.  
 1797. Large heraldic eagle. Die break through center of 7 in date. Hardly better than Fine, and with several  
 indications of handling.  
 Across - Samuel L. Davis, 1871. Cash - AW Sybil Detroit  
 Axe - Fred N. Halton Dan - FT Conley  
 1871

- 597 1799. Brilliant Uncirculated. A splendid coin, with full mint bloom, but showing the slight handling defects so common upon large Gold pieces. Really difficult to find so choice. The first Manjou specimen, also a "Gem," sold for \$137.50.
- 598 1799. Another. Strictly Extremely Fine. Lustrous, and with an attractive orange toning. A decidedly attractive example.
- 599 1803. About Uncirculated. Another beautiful and highly desirable piece.
- 600 1897. Brilliant Uncirculated. Above average.
- 601 1899. Brilliant Uncirculated. Above average.







# Mint Letters 1798-1802; 1803. Totals. Microfilm.

186		Comparative Statement of the Coins received by MINT			
		U. S. Gold & Silver Coins from 1792 to 1802 INCLUSIVE, viz.			
		Gold	Silver	COPPER	TOT
1798	7974 Eagles	7974.00			
	22167 Half Eagles	129,305.50			
	614 Quarter Eagles	1,535.50			
	327,536 Dollars		327,536.00		
	27,650 Pennies		27.55		
	977700 Dollars			9777	545,698
1799	17433 Eagles	17433.00			
	7251 Half Eagles	37,255.50			
	485 Quarter Eagles	1,212.50			
	623,315 Dollars		623,315.00		
	704,558 Pennies				
	12,167 Half Cents				
				9,106.68	645,906.68
1800	25,765 Eagles				
	11,622 Half Eagles				
	23,097 Dollars				
	21,740 Pennies				
	24,000 Half Pennies				
	2,722,175 Pennies				
	12,133 Half Cents				
				29,279.40	571,335.40
1801	20,725 Eagles				
	26,000 Half Eagles				
	54,454 Dollars				
	30,289 Pennies				
	31,640 Half Pennies				
	3,8910 Half Pennies				
	1,062,987 Pennies				
				13,628.37	510,956.37
1802	15,090 Eagles				
	53,176 Half Eagles				
	2,622 Quarter Eagles				
	44,635 Dollars				
	23,770 Half Pennies				
	10,978 Pennies				
	12,000 Half Pennies				
	34,251,100 Pennies				
	12,000 Half Pennies				
				34,422.83	516,115.83
		1,542,575	1,112,200	26,234.28	
		Total Dollars			2,790,012.28

Microfilm Letters page 175-6 paraphrased 11/9/02: Nathaniel Thomas former Clerk removed "[...]A number of papers belonging to the Treasury Dept., the



contents of which are unknown[...].” He was caught redhanded, he denied it, when they tried to search him he “violently” ran off. But the next day he returned “certain papers”. Boudnoit ordered Msrs Cloud, Eckfeldt, Ehrenzeller, Scot to examine papers & establish the facts. Then brief Mr. Dallas the attorney for the U.S. in this District. Next day Director says Treasurer was in neglect.

—page 180 Annual Report 1802: \$516,115.83 gold coined. \$129,730 coined from bullion & gold dust imported & from Union. The remainder has come from “clipped, plugged & otherwise spoiled Foreign coins”. Most of this went to The Bank of the U.S. for redemption of \$5 notes.

—page 183: gold struck 1802 Jan.-Mar. 4,416, Apr.-June 0, July-Sept. 6,789, Oct.-Dec. 3,885.

—page 43: First coinage July 31, 1795.

WB's annotated 1959 ANA catalogue.



# 1816 Mint fire; Mickley dies letter.

From Denver Mint to BV's records:

TD Denver Mint News Letter February 1994: 1816 MINT FIRE. The mill-house and the adjoining brick-house burned down. The mill-house was replaced by a large brick building with a 10HP steam engine in the basement. That powerful engine, purchased in England, drove the rolling presses.

TD: Mint Watchmen works from 6:00PM-5:00AM will particularly "examine the department of the engine and all the rooms where the fire has been on the preceding day." The rules state if a fire is spotted the Watchman required to ring the alarm bell. Inside the mint fire was carefully regulated when it was necessary to transport the fire from one part of the Mint to another was done with a dark lantern but not an open candle. The Watch-man is required to ring the yard bell every hour on the hour and send the watchdog immediately after ringing the bell.

WB letter.

From pages 2-3 of that manuscript volume I quote the following; punctuation and spelling as in the original:

"In digging out the rubbish from the cellar of the Mint which was destroyed in 1815, a small vault was found under the pavement bricked up with the exception of a small hole, and in tearing away the wall a number of the dies were found in this inclosure, there were about one bushel, they were picked out by workmen and finally sold as old steel to a worker in this metal. Some time after their disposition Mr. James [sic] 2. Mickley hearing of them endeavoured to obtain them, but most of them had been worked over, they being of the very best kind of steel, a number of them are now in his cabinet, among which is that very scarce number, the halfpenny of 1811."

The account contains minor inaccuracies: ~~about the time~~ <sup>157</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~fire took place in January 1816~~ <sup>the fire took place in January 1816</sup> and the excavations followed later that year. Mickley's given name was Joseph, not James; and "halfpenny" is an obvious misnomer. Nevertheless, I do not doubt the main outlines of the story. At the time, he was a boy of 17. The Mint fire did not destroy the Mint proper, nor any cellar in it, only ~~the~~ outbuildings including the shed where the rolling mills and planchet cutters were housed; this is why no gold and silver were coined in 1816, and no gold in 1817. <sup>158-60</sup> This event served as an excuse for a thorough and general housecleaning, rebuilding, and remodeling of buildings and machinery. <sup>157-8</sup>



Included herein for historical purposes only. B&W photocopy; color-code are important for reference.

## CHAPTER 37

## EAGLES OR TEN-DOLLAR PIECES

I. SCOT'S SMALL EAGLE DESIGN  
(1795-97)

Mintage of only three denominations—the dime, the silver dollar, and the 10-dollar coin officially called the eagle—sufficed to commit American coinage firmly to the decimal system; and for 60 years it seemed that coinage of these denominations had no other purpose, as they enjoyed little demand and less circulation. As we have seen, even after the Mint's principal output was reduced to one denomination in each metal: gold eagles, silver half dollars, and copper cents. The half eagle seems to have been favored because its bullion value was conveniently close to that of many foreign coins of the period (British guineas and sovereigns, French louis d'or and 14 Livres coins, Portuguese/Brazilian 1000 reis pieces). The Mint also minted smaller denominations in its spare time primarily as an alternative to privately made copper tokens.

However, the eagle, though specially named as our nation's gold monetary unit, was for various reasons inconvenient for international trade. It came near in value only to the French double louis and the British double guinea, neither commonly seen in commerce; it was too large for the average pocket, and inconvenient for transportation or storage of large sums (compared to doubloons, five-guinea coins, or 12,800 Rens pieces). As all these foreign coins were legal tender in the United States, bankers preferred them over less familiar types, and accordingly they ordered far fewer eagles than half eagles coined from their deposits of bullion. During the first quarter of 1793, only 57 million eagles—amounting to just under 79 million half eagles—

Some such choice from banker friends may have influenced Smith's direct line. William DeSaussure to order that half eagles be coined first. See Chap. 36, Sect. I, introductory text. Robert Scott's dies followed the half-sect design exactly, the reverse of the eagle being the obverse. The half-sect design, first-century Roman *numa* came serving for both. He completed four pairs of dies for 1795 coins, but only three went into use, the fourth being saved for 1796-97 issues. Their palm branch was an oblique heraldic reference to the southern homeland of the DeSaussures. The half-sect design was used for the 1796-97 issues. Most survivors show 13 leaves on the branch; the third rev. (very rare) has only nine, the fourth (the 1796-97 die) 11. Out of the [5,583] coined between Sept. 22, 1795, and March 30, 1796, approximately 126 survive, mostly V to AU with possibly a couple of dozen *numa* (possibly also to Gen. Washington at Mount Vernon. One of these went to Gen. Washington at Mount Vernon.

1795. 1-A 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches bar 2 large 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. V. P. 2. (2A, 2. 1/2 in. V. P. 2.)  
 1-B 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches bar 2 large 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. V. P. 2.  
 1-C 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches bar 2 large 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. V. P. 2.  
 1-D 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches bar 2 large 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. V. P. 2.  
 1-E 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches bar 2 large 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. V. P. 2.

the admission of Tennessee to the Union as sixteenth state, June 1, 1796. The first eagles with 16 stars for circulation were delivered on June 2, probably preceded by proffile presentation striking in connection with the Tennessee celebrations (as with other dedications). Stars are divided 8 + 8 as on the quarter eagle. Of [3,146] made, just under 2% survive; this date is distinctly rarer than 1795 in all grades, though unappreciated because lacking the extra appeal of the first year of issue.

The final year is also the rarest. Its single var. has stars awkwardly arranged 12 + 4; this die broke at once. I have reconstructed its mintage as [3,615] March 25–May 2, 1797; if this is the correct period of issue, fewer than 1.5% survive.

In all, only six obvs and four revs. were used in seven combinations, only one Ea. rare (1793 Nine Leaves), compared to the 11 pairs of dies for half eagles of this design. Completeness is possible for a price, and the set of seven would make an extremely impressive display.

SCOT'S SMALL EAGLE DESIGN

Designer, Engraver, Robert Scott. Mint, Philadelphia. Composition, gold  $11/12 = 917$  Fine, rest copper with traces of silver. Weight standard 270 grs = 17.496 gms. Diameter, about  $11/16" = 33.33$  mm. Reeded edge. Authorizing Act, April 2, 1792.

Grade range, GOOD to UAC; rarely collected in low grades. **Traces:** Major contours of cug, lag, and drapery intact; leaves in palm branch and wreath can be counted and show partial internal detail. **VERY FINE:** Moss folds clear in drapery and cap; partial detail on hair on cas below ear, and behind head; all wing feathers separated except at tips, partial detail on leg, breast, and neck feathers. **EXTREMELY FINE:** Few isolated tiny rubbed spots; partial mint hirst. **UNCIRCULATED:** No trace of wear. **NOTE:** Many specimens show adjustment marks = file marks inflicted on planchet-before striking to reduce weight to standard. These are not impairments but must be mentioned in grading. **VERY FINE:** Showing traces of solder; look on top and bottom edges for discoloration, tool marks, interruption of edge reeding, repairs, or discoloration with partial porosity.

6830 1795 [all kinds 5,5E3] Stars 10 + 5, 13 leaves in branch.  
4 vars., Sept. 27, 1795-March 30, 1796. Usually VF to AU  
"4-4-A": Hople 1665 (8221 1795)



# EAGLES OR TEN-DOLLAR PIECES

with perhaps 20-30 prooflike uncs., of which possibly 4 or 5 qualify as presentation striking; these are from Breen 1-A = Hill 1A dies, ill. least rare var. Earle, Clapp, Eliasberg-642, UNC., \$39,600; Eliasberg-643, UNC., \$57,200. The rarest var., Breen 3-B = Hill 3C, has tenth star touching cap: Garrett-1655, UNC., \$130,000.

6833 1799 9 leaves in branch. Ex. rare. Breen 4-C = Hill 2B. Possibly [116] March 30, 1796, + part of [1,169] March 19, 1796. Hill thinks they comprised about 210 of the June 21, 1796 delivery. Usually with fan chips (foreign matter adhering to dies). 1) Dr. Angus Black (ill. UNC.) 2) Kagin, Breen 11-194, \$11,000, 1977 ANA-5020, AU, \$9,000. 3) "Cicero"-di, Kagin 305-032 (1/2-4/75), ex. \$16,000. 4) Manfra Tordella & Brookes "over the counter," 5) Andrew M. Watson-1863, vr, scrubbed. 6) S. 9713/68-372, \$2,300, "AU," P-7) Granberg, Woodin, Newcomer, discovery coin, vr, unlocated, possibly same as one of preceding.



6832 1796 Stars 8 + 4, [1,146] Rare. Breen 1-A = Hill 4D, who thinks [3,615] of March 25-May 2, 1797; my figures represent deliveries June 2, 1796-Dec. 22, 1796. Eleven leaves in branch. Usually vr to AU, possibly 35-50 survivors; few lower grades; possibly 5-8 prooflike uncs. Often weak in centers. Dohrmann, Garrett-1656, AU, \$40,000; Pierce, Auction #2941, UNC., \$29,000.



6833 1797 Stars 12 + 4, [3,615] Very rare. Breen 1-A = Hill 5D, who thinks [1,907], June 7, 1797. Only one seen with unbroken dies; all others show break as ill. on last stages extending into neck and jaw. Possibly 25-30 vr to AU, 5 or 6 UNC. Minkley, Appleton, Garrett-1657, AU, \$39,000; Carter-750, UNC., \$30,350.



Ex J. W. Garrett. 1657. Courtesy Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, Inc.

## II. SCOT'S HERALDIC DESIGN (1797-1804)

Robert Scott's designs for this denomination copied those of the quarter eagle. Ms. Liberty's buston draped and capped effigy continued from 1795-97; the heraldic eagle derived from that of the Great Seal of the United States, but with the same blunder or ill-timed piece of saber rattling as on the smaller denomination. The warlike arrows are in the dexter or more honorable claw, outflanking the olive branch for peace. Compare Chap. 24, Sect. iii, introductory text.

If the conjectured and reconstructed mintage figures of the previous section are correct, then eagle coinage of the new design must have begun with [10,840] between June 7, 1797, and Jan. 30, 1798. These coins have only 13 rev. stars, evidently immediately following Mint Director Boudinot's decision to stop adding a new star for every new state. (See introductory sections, Chap. 25, Sect. ii; Chap. 33, Sect. ii; Chap. 36, Sect. ii.) Their single obv. has 16 stars divided 10 + 6, evidently completed before that decision. Possibly 2% survive, mostly vr to EF.

Two of the three revs. have "cross" star arrangement (stars are in intersecting straight lines forming diamond-shaped pattern), as described in the introductory texts just cited; the third has the "arc" arrangement: a row of six paralleling clouds, a row of five under them, and the twelfth and thirteenth flanking beak and neck. The "cross" revs. are probably the extant completed by whichever assistant or apprentice worked in 1798-99; if later research in pay records locates his name and inclusive dates, we may be able to deduce time of manufacture and use of these dies, and more accurate mintage figures.

The great rarities of this period are the two vars. dated 1798/7. The two deliveries of [900] and [842], Feb. 17 and 28, 1798, are believed to comprise, respectively, 6836 with stars 9 + 4, and 6837 with stars 7 + 6. Coinage of eagles was interrupted thereafter until May 14, 1799. Early breakage of both obv. dies may have been why.

In extreme contrast, the date 1799 (stars 8 + 5 henceforth) is one of the two most often seen of this design, the other being 1801. Between May 14, 1799, and Sept. 4, 1801, [37,445] were struck, all believed dated 1799. Of the five obv. and seven revs. in 10 combinations, two are plentiful (Breen 4-E and 5-G, in 6840-41), forming the majority of survivors of this date; with the 1801, they comprise the majority of this design. About 1% survive, including many uncs. Some of these revs. 1799-1803 may be half-dollar dies.

Again in contrast, the single var. dated 1800 (believed to comprise only the [5,999] of Nov. 18-25, 1800) is rare, especially in mint state; its limited mintage is doubtless relevant to early breakage of obv. die. Possibly 2% or slightly less survive in all grades.

And in still greater contrast, the date 1801 exists in two vars., one (close date, eighth star far from cap. Breen 1-A, rev. of 1799-1800) is rare; the other (wide date, eighth star very close to cap. rev. of 1803) commonest of all, 1795-1804. Mintage figure [44,344] includes [15,090] delivered in 1802 from 1801-dated dies. At a survival ratio of about 2%, nearly 1,000 are around, many UNC.

Eagles of 1803 share a peculiarity with half eagles 1800-3: A single obv. die is combined with several very similar revs. Unlike the half eagle, but like the half-dollar, the eagles fall into two naked-eye rev. types: small and large rev. stars, the small as in 1797-1801, the large as in 1804. Large stars are as wide as either S in STATES. The first of the two large star revs. has

traces of a small star within the rightmost cloud; the other die reappears with the single 1804 obv. Mintages include [8,979] Aug. 19-Oct. 19, 1803 (Small Stars?) plus [6,038] June 1-Dec. 11, 1804 (Large Stars?); less than 2% survived the melting pots.

The final date, 1804, is rarer than its mintage suggests, particularly choice. Of the single var., only a little over 1% survive out of [3,757] delivered Dec. 28-31, 1804.

On Dec. 31, 1804, coinage of this denomination halted, pursuant to verbal orders from Pres. Thomas Jefferson. The reason was extensive meltings by bullion dealers, exactly as with the silver dollars; neither denomination would reappear in circulation for over 30 years. But as with the dollars, a proof-only 1804 with plain 4 and beaded borders was a mysterious addition to the series.

This final var. remained unexplained until 1962. It was first pictured—without special comment—in a photographic plate of Liberty heads in 1869 *AJN*; its rare auction appearances were notable largely because all specimens seen were proofs. Only with the discovery of the King of Siam's original cased proof set of 1834, which contained both this and the 1804 "Class I" proof dollar, was the mystery solved. Four proofs were made in Nov. 1834 for inclusion in the four cased proof sets intended for diplomatic presentation: See Chap. 29, Sect. iv, introductory text. They are rarer than the 1907 Rolled Edge with Periods or the 1933, and twice as rare as the 1804 dollar, but have not had the publicity of those. There are also at least five silver impressions from these dies; I have not yet had opportunity to study these to ascertain if they were made in 1834 or restruck in 1858-60. If they are on half-dollar planchets, weights will establish the time of issue as with the 1838-39 half-dollar patterns: Half-dollar blanks 1794-1836 weigh 208 grs. = 13.48 gms.; 1853-73, 192 grs. = 12.44 gms.

Even without the 1804 backdated proofs, the set of Heraldic eagles has become difficult to complete, partly because of high floor prices on even the least rare var., partly because type-collector pressure has made the 1798/7 Stars 7 + 6 seem much rarer than it is.

### SCOT'S HERALDIC DESIGN

Designer, Engraver, Robert Scot (except as noted). Mint, Physical Specifications, Authorizing Act, as before.

Grade range and standards, as before; in addition, for FINE expect motto complete but weak, partial shading on shield, few wing feathers separated; for VERY FINE expect full motto, over half wing feathers clear, partial tail feathers. NOTES, EXCEPTIONS: As before.

#### I. SHIELD WITH SEVEN PALES GULES

5834 1797 Stars 10 + 6. [10,940] Rev. "Cross" star arrangement.

mint.  
Breen 2-B, 2-C = Hilt 6E, 6F. Hilt thinks these are [4,449] + [2,561] of June 29, 1797-Jan. 23, 1798. See introductory text. Price for Breen 2-B, with straight branch; Zag. Clapp, Eliasberg-648, AU/UNC, \$15,400. The var. ill. (2-C) is much rarer, especially with break between ER to leaf.  
Breen ill. and enl. in *Profrs* 672-3.



6835 1797 Same obv.; "arc" star arrangement.

Breen 2-D = Hilt 6G. Rev. of 1798. Obv. always with crack through final 7 to drapery. Available for a price in VF to AU; Garrett-1658, EF, \$12,000. Prohibitively rare in mint state.  
Hilt 2-C.



6836 1798/7 Stars 9 + 4. [900]

Breen 1-A. Feb. 17, 1798. Of possibly 18-20 known, 6 are UNC. 3 mutilated, the others VF to AU. Various states of die breaks. Enl. photo. Newlin, Garrett-1659, \$52,500; Eliasberg-649, AU/UNC, \$33,000. Stanley Kesselman.



Mint, S1  
2-19  
Gross, Mahoney,  
Lilly, S1  
72,491 f

6837 1798/7 Stars 7 + 6. [842]

Breen 2-A. Feb. 28, 1798. Of 13 known, 5 are at least border-  
m 2-a







6846 1803 Large rev. stars, no extra star. Ex. rare.

Breen 1-F. Rev. of next. Leaf point between RI. Einstein:444 (struck after next).

6847 1804 Crosslet 4. [3,757] Rare.

Rev. of 6846. Both dies come with various states of cracks. Possibly 6 UNCs. known. Eliasberg:659; UNC., \$35,200. Altered dates from 1801 (and possibly other years) are reported; these are instantly identifiable by the revs., because Large Stars revs. occur only 1803-4, and the 1804 die differs in leaf position from the 1803.



6848 1804 Plain 4. [4+P] Proof only. Ex. rare.

Judd 33. By William Kneass. Beaded borders; plain 4 with flat top, style of various 1834 denominations. Struck Nov. 1834 for diplomatic presentation sets; see introductory text and Newman-Bressett (1962). 1) Parmelee, Steigerwalt, Woodin, Clapp, Eliasberg:660, \$33,000-2) Col. Green, Eliasberg, H. R. Lee, Baldenhofer:1459, pvt. coll. 3) Virgil Brand, C. E. Green, pvt. coll. 4) Mint, State Dept., King of Siam proof set (about \$1 million), pvt. coll. 5) 17/5/77: 29



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[AB1-F]

"P"  
Mint, SE  
H01-1A

H02-B

o. 12-7  
regal  
B. B. 10  
Cran 4/11/76  
(P.W.)  
Cran 7/11/78/18

10/18/1976 Martin Paul  
Sep. "Forked Flag"  
Buy "Tenn" sale  
5/7/1990,  
\$3.19 M

K Jan. 1975:\_\_\_ annot.

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## SECOND SESSION

TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 28, 1975  
7:30 P.M. - LOTS 486-1001

EAGLES  
U. S. \$10 GOLD PIECES  
1795-1933



A COMPLETE SET OF EAGLES 1795-1804

*Lot No. 486*

---

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

37



## RARE EAGLES

### A COMPLETE SET OF EAGLES 1795-1804

486

One of the rarest sets that it has ever been our pleasure to offer at Public Auction -

\$10 1795-1804 The complete date and variety set with both large and small eagle 1797's and both varieties of 1798 over 7. We have carefully examined and graded each coin in this offering and in our opinion the coin grade as follows:

1) 1795 Small Eagle. Cleaned appearing Extremely Fine, almost invisible old scrape in front of forehead. *BIA chips*

2) 1796 Choice Uncirculated. Field not quite perfection due to tiny handling marks, regardless it is much rarer than the 1795, especially in this mint condition. *closed An*

3) 1797 Small Eagle. Equal to the 1795 in rarity. Different star arrangement. Borderline Uncirculated. Variety with die break below last star on right. A very rare coin. *right T-E S*

4) 1797 Large Herakleic Eagle. Brilliant Uncirculated with a superb mirror-like surface on reverse. Obverse - very handling marks. Equal to the very best. *dk 1 r. by 14. 2d*

5) 1798 over 97 Four stars facing right. Brilliant Uncirculated, almost unheard of in this condition. Very faint adjustment marks across cheek and neck. Much mint bloom. Nicier than the Miles specimen that realized \$17,000 in a sale a year ago. *big ck. BE 1st run 2nd edge - end*

6) 1798 over 97 Six stars facing. This is the rarest coin in this group of early Eagles and grades choice Extremely Fine with traces of mint lustre. In our opinion, of the possibly fifteen in existence none are nicer. The record realized on a similar coin, the Miles specimen was \$52,500 in a New York sale last May. *fig with in clve cloud below c. broken in with large and S.*

7) 1799 Brilliant Uncirculated with lovely surfaces. Slight evidence of rubbing on cheek and high points of coin. Very scarce this nice. *B5G*

8) 1800 Shade from choice Uncirculated. An interesting variety with die breaks obverse and reverse.

9) 1801 Brilliant Uncirculated. A spectacular coin with pale orange toning. Sharply struck. *B20 choice*

10) 1803 Brilliant Uncirculated with interesting clash marks on reverse. *B1A*

11) 1804 Last year of issue of the early Eagles. Cleaned choice Extremely Fine. *full breast F's*

The above set is housed in a custom plastic case and is ready for display to your collecting friends. If you can afford one of the rarest sets in existence here is your opportunity to make an excellent investment. With the growing interest in rare U.S. Gold coins, sets such as these will continue to enhance in value. PLATE

1795 EAGLES

FOUR 1795 EAGLES



Lot No. 487

BIA nu dld ch

- 487 1795 First year of issue. Draped capped bust facing right. Rev. Small eagle. 13 leaves in branch. Brilliant Uncirculated with practically all feathers on breast sharp. Very minor handling marks. Almost as nice as the Gaylord specimen that we sold a few years ago. Coins of this quality truly impossible to obtain except in a sale of this magnitude. PLATE



Lot No. 488

BIA

- 488 1795 as above. This specimen is borderline Brilliant Uncirculated with prooflike surface on reverse. Faint adjustment marks center of breast. 13 leaves on branch. Very minor edge bruise over first T in STATES. Some handling marks, but truly a magnificent specimen worthy of the finest home. PLATE

(slight  
unusually  
old)



Lot No. 489

BIA

- 489 1795 Small Eagle. The third offering from the famous John A. Beck Collection. 13 leaves in wreath. Lustrous Extremely Fine or a trifle better, with normal handling marks and hardly any circulation. Very attractive and valuable. PLATE

✓

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

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# EAGLES



Lot No. 490

030 W R 7

- 490 1795 The fourth specimen in this great collection. 13 leaves on branch. Variety with die bump left of first A in AMERICA near border. Choice Extremely Fine-About Uncirculated with minor faults and handling marks. Tiny scratch in field above branch on left. Rarity 7. Possibly less than 12 pieces of this variety in existence. Should realize a record price. PLATE



Lot No. 491

- 491 1796 Same type as 1795. Small eagle reverse, slightly different star arrangement. Choice Extremely Fine with considerable lustre. Low mintage of 4146. Seldom offered, and worth as much as the 1795's. PLATE

FOUR 1797 LARGE EAGLE \$10 GOLD

B 2 B

Line note

- 492 1797 Second type. Heraldic Eagle on Reverse. Choice About Uncirculated with faint bag marks. Prooflike surface on reverse and much mint bloom on obverse. Though this is not a flawless coin it is one of the nicest we have seen in years. Variety with planchet flaw as struck between ER on obverse.

40

ORDER YOUR PRICE LIST-\$1.00



VERY RARE 1798/7 EAGLE – \$10 GOLD



B2B

Lot No. 493

- 493 1797 Type as above. Heraldic Eagle reverse. This coin is choice Brilliant Uncirculated, but due to contact with other coins the surface is not flawless. Under magnification traces of friction seen. The reverse is prooflike. A very sharply struck coin with faint die crack through final 7 to rim. PLATE

- 494 1797 Heraldic Eagle. The third specimen offered. Lustrous About Uncirculated, again without signs of circulation, but definite contact with other coins. Under 10X magnification faint adjustment marks can be seen across cap. Rare this choice. B2B

- 495 1797 Large eagle, the fourth specimen and equal to the preceding three in every way. Lustrous About Uncirculated, with friction marks or rubs in field. Almost full proof surface on reverse. Comparable specimens sold as choice Uncirculated. Should realize very high bid. B2B



Lot No. 496

VERY RARE 1798/7 EAGLE – FOUR STARS FACING

- 496 1798 8 over 7 – 9 stars left, 4 right. Capped bust to right. Heraldic eagle reverse. Obverse die crack from L in LIBERTY through cap into hair. Only 900 pieces struck. Lustrous just About Uncirculated. One faint edge knock between 5th and 6th stars and one flaw on obverse edge to right of date. In our opinion this coin is as nice as the Miles specimen which realized \$17,000 in a sale held last May. PLATE

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

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# EAGLES

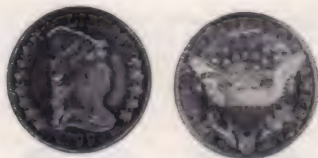


Lot No. 497

vt+

- 497 1798 8 over 7 - 9 stars left, 4 right. Another as above. Choice Extremely Fine or slightly better. Considerable mint lustre. Could realize a five figure bid, considering the demand today for similar rarities. PLATE

## ELEVEN 1799 EAGLES THE FINEST AND LARGEST GROUP EVER SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION



Lot No. 498

borderline

- 498 1799 Brilliant Uncirculated with full mint bloom. Very sharp strike. All radial lines in stars distinct. Large stars. Almost free of contact marks from other coins. A truly beautiful coin worth very high bid. PLATE 05G

- 499 1799 Choice Uncirculated. Very attractive smooth surfaces and pale orange toning. ~~Minor~~ nick on edge over I in UNITED and first T in STATES. D4G ✓

- 500 1799 Brilliant Uncirculated. Shades of light and bright orange-yellow tones. Variety with faint die break through cloud and final S in STATES, from rim through MERI, CA. Lovely surfaces with hardly any bag marks usually found on these large coins. D4D R7 ✓

- 501 1799 Choice Uncirculated, struck in pale yellow gold. Faintest trace of rubbing on high points of coin. Variety with third star in first row weak struck on reverse. Very pleasing appearance. ✓ ~~borderline~~ B5G

- 502 1799 Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale yellow frosty gold specimen. Another lovely coin from this great holding. Few minor handling marks but we doubt if you will see any much nicer. A valuable coin. D4G Smith after L ✓

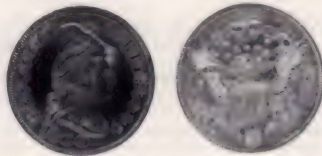
42

ORDER YOUR PRICE LIST-\$1.00

# 1799-1800 EAGLES

- 503 1799 Borderline Uncirculated. Very sharply struck. Variety with die crack from rim to tips of eighth star to back of cap. Few other faint die cracks on obverse. Very scarce type coin. *B 38 R7* ✓
- 504 1799 Brilliant About Uncirculated. Minor contact marks in field and some rubs on high points. Reverse almost prooflike surfaces and quite sharply struck. *04E* ~
- 505 1799 Brilliant About Uncirculated. Nice pale yellow gold with attractive surfaces. Very faint adjustment marks on lower segment of shield. Some prooflike surface on reverse. Just a thin shade from being choice Uncirculated. *BSF, R8* ✓
- 506 1799 Brilliant About Uncirculated. Traces of recutting on last 9. Well centered and very pleasing in every respect. Worth a very high bid. *BSG short Au*
- 507 1799 Choice About Uncirculated. ~~Large star variety.~~ Considerable mint lustre. *BSA R1*
- 508 1799 The last of the illustrious eleven. Choice About Uncirculated. Beautiful clean surfaces struck in bright yellow gold. *BSG ~*

## FOUR 1800 EAGLES



Lot No. 509

- 509 1800 Brilliant Uncirculated with full mint bloom. Die crack through LIBERTY. Superb appearing reverse with faint die breaks below claw. A pin type diagonal scratch on center obverse hidden in the hair. Rare this choice. PLATE *midland* ✓
- 510 1800 ~~Choice~~ *very* Uncirculated with some bag marks in the field. Well centered and well struck. Almost full mint bloom. Very scarce. ✓
- 511 1800 Choice About Uncirculated in full brilliance. First stars on left flat struck. Pale orange toning. A very desirable type coin. ✓
- 512 1800 Choice About Uncirculated with considerable mint lustre. Die cracks and extensive clash marks. Field shows much contact with other coins. Ex-Henry Chapman. ... Cost \$22.50! Rarity 5. *full chip below end of drop.* ~

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

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## 1801 EAGLES

### A SELECTION OF TEN 1801 EAGLES



Lot No. 513

- |     |      |   |    |     |
|-----|------|---|----|-----|
| 513 | 1801 | Brilliant Uncirculated. Attractive pale orange mint bloom. Wide date variety with clash marks on cap. A very scarce coin in this mint state condition. PLATE  | 2B | hwy |
| 514 | 1801 | Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale yellow gold. Just about qualified to be called "a gem specimen." Same die variety as above. Truly a magnificent coin.  | 2B | ~   |
| 515 | 1801 | Brilliant Uncirculated and very sharply struck. One minor edge bruise over fifth star on left obverse. Clash marks on cap. Pale orange toning. Seldom seen this nice.   | 2B | ~   |
| 516 | 1801 | Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale yellow and orange toning. Variety without clash marks at cap. Very sharp struck and well centered. Truly a lovely specimen worth a high bid.   | 2B | ~   |
| 517 | 1801 | Brilliant Uncirculated. In the fields some friction marks, which do not greatly effect the value or the appearance. Scarce this nice.   | 2B | ~   |
| 518 | 1801 | Choice About Uncirculated. Minimum of handling marks. Sharp struck. Pale orange toning. No clash marks on cap. Very scarce.   | 2B | ~   |
| 519 | 1801 | Choice About Uncirculated. Struck in yellow gold. Some bag marks and signs of contact with other coins. Quite a bit of mint lustre still adhering. Very much in demand.   | 2B | ~   |
| 520 | 1801 | Choice About Uncirculated. Very pleasing pale orange toning with some mint lustre evident.  | 2B | ~   |
| 521 | 1801 | Choice lustrous Extremely Fine or slightly better. Hardly noticeable adjustment marks through clouds at tip of wing at left. Few old scratches dimly visible on obverse. Trace of proof surface on reverse. Overall an attractive coin. | 2B | ~   |
| 522 | 1801 | Sharp Extremely Fine with considerable mint lustre. This is the last of the ten 1801's from the John A. Beck Collection consigned to this auction. Surface shows minimum of wear and bag marks.   | 2B | ~   |

# 1803 EAGLES

## FOUR 1803 EAGLES

- 523 1803 Borderline Uncirculated with much mint lustre. Traces of old cleaning on obverse and minor handling marks. Very scarce in this excellent condition. *01A ~*



Lot No. 524

- 524 1803 Brilliant Uncirculated. Almost a superb specimen with full mint frost and bloom. Minor adjustment marks across cheek and hair and part of neck. Beautifully centered. Pale orange gold. Very scarce in this mint state. PLATE *1E '1A'*

- 525 1803 Choice Uncirculated. Struck in yellow gold. Minor adjustment rubs at bustline and through first three stars. Truly a desirable example of this scarce coin. *dull Aut 01A*

- 526 1803 Sharp Extremely Fine. A beautiful "type" coin with slight wear. We have consistently tried to grade these coins "as they actually are" ... not as "we wish they were" ... You will be well pleased with each and every coin you purchase in this and all other Quality Sales. *1A*



Lot No. 527

- 527 1804 Last year of issue of the early Eagle. Extremely Fine with normal obverse center weakness. Surface is quite heavily bag nicked (under magnification), however, this coin is very pleasing in appearance. Traces of mint lustre. Toned orange and reddish purple. PLATE *1A*

## CORONET TYPE - NO MOTTO ABOVE EAGLE

- 528 1838 First year of issue. Scarce as only 7200 coined. Nice Very Fine with some lustre on reverse. Usual handling marks. *02*

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

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**Eagles**

1425 **1799.** Adams 5. Just about Uncirculated. Flatly struck on face and eleventh star only, the reverse extra sharp. A rim bruise on either side; two or three minor reverse rim nicks. Several small obv. rim breaks. Popular.

1426 **1801.** Adams 1. A shade from full Unc. Lustrous; slightly better and scarcer than last. With a tiny rim nick on either side, plus the usual slight defects.

1427 **1839.** Type of '38; Large letters upon the reverse. Very Fine or so. Far from common.

- 1425 1799. Adams J. Just about Uncirculated. Flatly struck on face and eleventh star only, the reverse extra sharp. A rim bruise on either side; two or three minor reverse rim nicks. Several small obv. rim breaks. Popular.
- 1426 1801. Adams I. A shade from full Unc. Lustrous; slightly better and scarcer than last. With a tiny rim nick on either side, plus the usual slight defects.
- 1427 1839. Type of '38; Large letters upon the reverse. Very Fine or so. Far from common.



## Cynics Dictionary WB's ms.

*The Jones*  
numismatics n. A scholarly veneer over competitive greed (see Five Finger Word). Subject of public delusions that identify old coins as automatically valuable. A form of the passion to own something other collectors lack. A combination of "be first in your block to have it" and "bigger your neighbor," often adding "mine's better than yours," and "I got it cheaper." *also*  
I say this with the more freedom, having been a numismatic consultant for thirty-odd years. *of form*

coin n. 1. A form of metallic power. 2. Measure of everything and nothing. 3. Solid symbol of a mathematical abstraction. 4. Game counter in business and coin collecting, worthless except when being given up: compare money, coin dealers, numismatists. 5. Means of immortalizing rulers whose subjects often would rather forget them: see numismatics. 6. Popular

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four-letter word.

Repeat the word often enough and it sounds like "Oink, oink, oink!" (Thank you, Pat Breen.)

**coincidences** n. Local symmetries in the vast flux of **random**.

Compare **causality**, **because**, **karma**. The meaningful kind Jung called **synchronicity** [1961] may indicate common ancestry for the **patterns**. Vaughan [1979]:202-226 and passim. Accordingly, many religionists call them "God's sealed orders," "God's way of remaining anonymous."

"Once is an event, twice is a coincidence, thrice is a **pattern**." --Heuristic truism.

**coin collectors** n.phr. Prey of **coin dealers**. Potential **numismatists**; therefore, potential **cherrypickers**.

The **game** of **numismatics** is not for the ignorant or the unwary. Its motto is Caveat emptor 'Let the buyer beware.' Beware especially of promotions aimed at the general public (usually offering allegedly rare silver dollars at allegedly bargain prices); learn all you can about **grading**; do comparison shopping; know your dealer--and his reputation among other dealers. Before you buy anything, read Yeoman [1987] for an overview. More specialized information is in Breen [1987].

**coin dealers** n.phr. Apt to believe themselves prey of **cherrypickers**. Nevertheless, many brag to their peers about

consequences n. 1. Generic karma. Compare causality. 2. The waves  
you make.

This Dictionary's? Those I hope to see: referendums  
held; laws improved or repealed; victimless crimes' penalties  
abolished; the more corrupt politicians and demagogues  
ousted; the more oppressive churches deserted; taboos laughed  
out of existence: a world worth living in. Those I fear:  
censorship, enemies' lies and calumnies, trumped-up charges,  
prison, bookburning, riots, bloodshed, civil war.

YOUR MOVE!

--Carved sidewalk graffito, Milpas St. just north of  
Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara.



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